

School board discuss enrollment numbers, bills

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis schools started Aug. 21. At the St. Francis Board of Education meeting Thursday evening, Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said there were a total of 291 students enrolled, four students down from last year. However, he said, the official enrollment count is on Sept. 20.

Mr. Schiltz, as the board reviewed the list of bills, pointed out that a partial payment of \$60,930 had been made to American Boiler for the boiler in the high school. Remodeling in the kindergarten and music rooms at the grade school had been \$12,640.

There are three new teachers in the elementary and they had requested some new equipment including four Promethean Smart Board and a new reading books series. Meghan Kinen, first grade teacher, had taught with the reading series and recommended it. Since she has worked with it, she is helping the other teachers become more familiar with it, he said. The Smart Boards and reading series cost around \$20,000.

About this time each year, Mr. Schiltz said he goes over the possibility of an increase in salary or a salary adjustment for employees as an option to an increase in their contracted amounts.

The salary adjustment, he said, is something the school has done in the past when it is feasible. At the Thursday meeting, the board was still uncertain what the state budget would allow schools.

The base salary at the St. Francis schools is \$33,000 which, Mr. Schiltz said, is in the middle compared to other schools in the area. He had calculated what employees would receive if there was a 2.43-percent increase but he was not asking the board to make a decision at the meeting.

Kelly Gienger, board member, was in favor of giving the teachers a bonus because the state had not yet decided on what they would give schools. Scott Carmichael, principal, said that the teachers appeared to appreciate the bonus they had received at Christmas time last year.

The matter was tabled until the October meeting.

Health insurance

The school's health insurance, Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas, had indicated that it would once again increase the premiums on Nov. 1 - this year, it is estimated to be a 5.3-percent increase. The school has three different plans with different deductibles which teachers and full-time employees can chose from.

Currently, Mr. Schiltz said, the school pays \$350 a month toward a single plan and \$700 a month toward the other plans.

At this time, there are 19 employees on the single plan and eight on other plans which costs the school district \$147,000. The proposed increase would cost \$13,320.

Again, Mr. Schiltz was not asking the board to make a decision and the matter was tabled to the October meeting.

Gift offers

Two businesses had given the school gift offers. Nex-Tech had sent a \$860 rebate check. Traci Neitzel, clerk, reported that, since 2008, Nex-Tech has given the school a total of \$11,453.

The second gift offer was a check for \$1,000 from Wheeler Equity to be used in the activity

department.

Both gifts were accepted with appreciation noted.

Mr. Schiltz had received a letter from the auditors, Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, asking him if he knew that the school was forfeiting \$16,770 in order to control the mill levy. He asked for guidance from the board, noting that he didn't think the board should raise the mill levy to get \$16,770 - that he and the board had an obligation to the taxpayers. He also noted that the county is already raising the mill levy.

The state, he said, wants local boards to raise the mill levy. The school can make it without

raising the mill levy just to get a little more money back from the state.

The board agreed not to raise the money and to forfeit the \$16,770. Mr. Schiltz reminded the board that it will get written up by the auditors for this move.

Waiver granted

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel. When they returned to regular session, they voted to approve Ralph Lebow for a transportation waiver.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11, in the board room at the high school.

Obituary

Estella J. Knitig

Feb. 14, 1917 - Sept. 10, 2012



Knitig

Estella J. Knitig, age 95, of Rapid City, S.D., died Monday, Sept. 10, 2012, at the Rapid City Regional Hospital Hospice of the Hills.

Estella was born Feb. 14, 1917, at her parents' home in Clough Valley near St. Francis, a small town in Northwest Kansas. She was the third of six girls born to John and Ruby Indorf. Weighing just 3 pounds, she was so small, her father's ring would slide over her hand. Her first bed was a shoe box, placed in a dresser drawer to keep her safe and warm during the cold Kansas winter. She even shared a warming oven with a baby lamb which also needed extra warmth and care.

As Estella grew, her father, a veterinarian and rancher, depended on her assistance, making her responsible for many ranch chores and field work. She continued ranching and farming when she married at the age of 19. Estella and her first husband had two daughters, Karen and Judy.

Several years later, Estella met and married Kenneth Knitig, a game warden, and settled in Goodland, Kan, adding Ken's son Rhoncen, daughter Margaret, and sons Bill and Tom to her family. Having worked at the Bird City Cooperative for a number of years, she was well qualified to become the bookkeeper at a local tire store. Estella and Ken enjoyed camping and gardening together. Included

among her many talents were canning (famous for her "hot" dill pickles), embroidering, quilting and reading. She continued to embroider until the age of 91.

We celebrate the life of Estella, who touched and inspired many lives, always putting others before herself.

Estella was preceded in death by her parents, older sister Iva Blacker, and step-son Rhoncen.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Ken; daughters Karen (Jaime) and Judy (Marvin) of Hermosa, S.D.; step-children Bill (Annette) of Goodland, Margaret DeFord of Texoma, Okla., and Tom of Ulysses, 13 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by sisters Margaret Shay and Helen Lampe of St. Francis, Anna Marie Wilson of Boulder, Colo., and Ruby Schleppe of Copan, Okla.; sisters-in-law Doris, Dorothy and Geri, along with numerous nieces and nephews, loving all dearly.

Funeral services were held on Sept. 13 at the Kirk Funeral Home in Rapid City with the Rev. Herb Cleveland and Rev. Becky Piper officiating. Interment will follow at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial in Estella's name has been established at the Rapid City Regional Dialysis Center or the Good Samaritan Echo Ridge Assisted Living Facility. Memorials may be sent in care of Kirk Funeral Home, Box 2846, Rapid City, SD 57709.

An online guestbook is available at www.kirkfuneralhome.com

Famous Quotes

- Do your work with your whole heart and you will succeed - there is so little competition. ----Jules Renard
- A youth is to be regarded with respect. How do you know that his future will not be equal to our present? --Confucius
- Better late than before anybody invited you. --Ambrose Bierce
- Force has no place where there is need of skill. --Herodotus

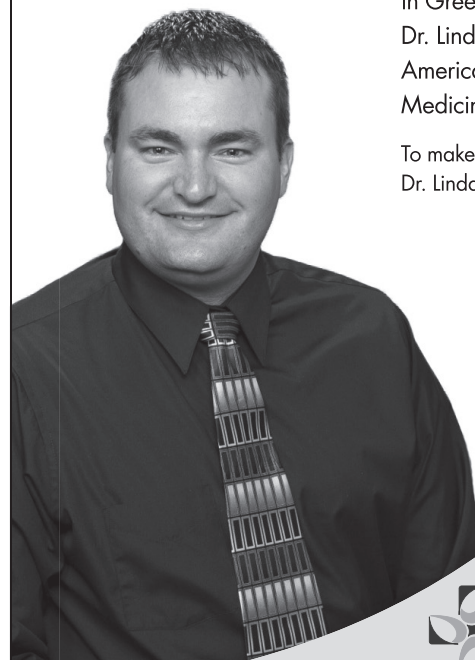
We're proud to welcome Brett Lindau, D.O.

Dr. Brett Lindau is now seeing patients at McCook Clinic as Community Hospital's newest physician

Dr. Lindau earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (2003), and his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Chicago College

of Osteopathic Medicine in Downers Grove, Illinois (2009). He completed his Family Medicine Residency at the North Colorado Family Medicine Residency Program in Greeley, Colorado (2012). Dr. Lindau is certified with the American Board of Family Medicine.

To make an appointment with Dr. Lindau, call 308-344-4110.



COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Advanced care. Always there.

1301 East H Street • McCook, NE 69001 • www.chmccook.org
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



NEW TEACHER Seth Swihart keeps the children in line at last week's Accelerated Reading kick off event.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Record numbers for livestock show

Youth from 91 counties have entered 1,764 animals in the 80th Kansas Junior Livestock Show. This is the largest number of livestock entered in 25 years.

A total of 750 exhibitors plan to bring 147 market steers, 329 breeding heifers, 305 market hogs, 101 breeding gilts, 300 market lambs, 70 purebred ewes, 191 commercial ewes, 231 meat goats and 90 commercial doe kids to the show. The statewide event

will take place Sept. 21-24 at the Kansas Pavilions near Wichita.

There are four exhibitors from St. Francis. Martin Beikman will be showing a market barrow; Shadryon Blanka, a shorthorn breeding heifer; Shakotah Blanka, a shorthorn breeding heifer; Jandy Dunn, who will be showing two market lambs and will enter sheep showmanship.

The grand and reserve steers, hogs, lambs and goats will be sold

during the junior livestock show auction of champions starting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 24. The public is welcome and encouraged to support the event by bidding on livestock in the live auction.

In many cases, exhibitors of the winning animals use the money earned from the auction to help fund their college educations and buy next year's livestock projects.

Local cattle ranch recognized

Flying S Ranch, St. Francis, owned by Ryan and Diane Shay, have three bulls listed in the 2012 Fall Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information

available on 6,067 sires, and is currently accessible at www.angussiresearch.com.

"This report provides both Angus breeders and commercial cattle producers using Angus genetics with accurate, predictable selection tools for improving their herd," said Sally Northcutt,

genetic research director.

Expected progeny differences are generated from the performance database of the American Angus Association, which includes information submitted by nearly 9,000 Angus breeders this past year through the Association's Beef Improvement Records program.

The Fall 2012 evaluation includes a full suite of EPDs for production, maternal, and carcass traits. Available decision-making tools also include dollar values, the bio-economic indexes designed to assist commercial producers in simplifying the genetic selection process.

The semi-annual analysis for the Sire Evaluation Report utilizes over 21 million measures used to generate nearly 62 million EPDs for the Angus breed.

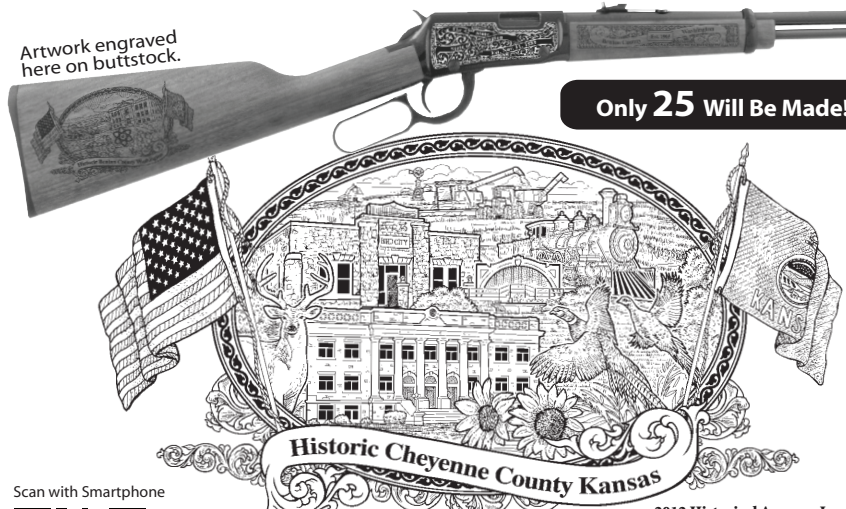
— Lines from the Library —

We have the following new books at the library. Taming the Wind by Tracie Peterson; To Heaven and Back by Mary C. Neal, MD; By Starlight by Dorothy Garlock; The Inn at Rose Harbor by Debbie Macomber; Sweet Talk by Julie Garwood; The Last Victim by Karen Robards; Whispers in the Wind by Lauraine Snelling; Judgement Call by

J.A. Janice; Friends Forever by Danielle Steele; Close your Eyes by Iris Johansen.

We will be holding an electronic book training at the St. Francis Public Library on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 5:30 p.m. If you have not signed up and are interested, please call the library at 785-332-3292.

CHEYENNE COUNTY ENGRAVED RIFLE



Artwork engraved here on buttstock.

Only 25 Will Be Made!

Only \$511.99! (H001 reg. \$561.99)

One week only- \$50 off each rifle!

H004 Goldenboy .22LR \$799.99* (reg. \$849.99)

H009B .30/30 \$1399.99* (reg. \$1449.99)

*Plus S&H

-Also available as a set-

Engraved on affordable, American-made, stock Henry rifles, the Cheyenne County Kansas Historical Edition Rifle combines meticulous research, original artwork, and finely detailed engraving to celebrate the history of Cheyenne County. The project is limited to 25 edition numbers. Personalization available.

Easy Layaway Options

For more information e-mail us at: info@historicalarmory.com

Dealer Inquiries Welcome

To Order Call 1-877-484-0179

For more information visit,

www.historicalarmory.com/county-editions



Scan with Smartphone

2012 Historical Armory, Inc. ©