



PREPPING FOR PRESENTATION — Ally Northrup, David Morrow, Randee Grover, Janet Carman and Zach Gienger work on methods of performing Shakespeare's sonnets.

Teacher preps students for upcoming presentations

The weekend of Friday Nov. 9, Saturday Nov. 10, and Sunday, Nov. 11, Patrick McWilliams will visit St. Francis, offering a series of workshops and performances, sponsored by the Cheyenne Center for Creativity.

Friday, Mr. McWilliams, a former teacher of literature and drama, will work with instructor David Morrow and his speech class on methods of performing Shakespeare's sonnets. At 2:45 that same day, an assembly at the high school will hear him perform his one-act play, "The Trial of Socrates: A Juror Speaks."

Mr. Morrow thinks it is important for students to study Shakespeare so they can see life from the perspective of one of the greatest writers in history, especially from several hundred years ago. Morrow's students have read Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, and a number of Shakespeare's most famous sonnets.

He hopes that McWilliams' presentation will help students learn how to interpret a sonnet better.

"It would also be great for the students to see that there are many students out there who are enthusiastic fans of Shakespeare," he said. "Hopefully, some little spark of inspiration will motivate them to continue reading The Bard's work."

Mr. Morrow feels that Patrick McWilliams' presentation of The Trial of Socrates: A Juror Speaks is an opportunity for students to see a great presentation delivered from memory. They will be able to see what's possible when a per-

son sets his mind to accomplishing a task. Students will also learn some interesting lessons about democracy.

In addition to appearing at the school, Mr. McWilliams will offer "Shakespeare Live" Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Saturday evening he will repeat his performance of "The Trial of Socrates" for the public. The evening will begin with a 6 PM dinner at Cuppa Joe Espresso, the presentation at 7 p.m., followed by coffee and cookies at 8. Finally, on Sunday

at 2 p.m., he will perform the "The Gospel According to Mark" at the Old Country Church.

Reservations for the Saturday performances should be made at Cuppa Joe Espresso. Suggested freewill donations for these events are as follows: "Shakespeare Live," \$10; "Supper and Socrates," \$15; both events, \$20.

Proceeds will cover expenses and benefit the arts in Cheyenne County through the Cheyenne Center for Creativity, cc4creativity.org.

People urged to shop holiday craft fair

By Karen Krien
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People are urged to plan their holiday shopping at the 17th annual Craft Show on Saturday, Nov. 3. The doors to the St. Francis Grade School will open at 10 a.m.

Shoppers will be amazed at the array of items filling the gym as well as the hall. Spilling into the cafeteria, the PTA book fair will be held and lunch will be served.

All items at the show will be handcrafted including a new vendor that makes wood furniture.

"We have six or more new vendor plus many of the other vendors are returning," said Bonnie Zwegardt, one of the coordinators.

Some of the items include silk arrangements, wood items, Jewelry, fall arrangements, honey, handmade lamps, doll cradles and

bedding, quilts, handmade leather items, Christmas decorations, crochet items, denim jackets and vests, food... much, much more.

Throughout the day, there will be door prizes drawn.

In year's past, the Craft Show has been sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. However, when it dissolved at the first of the year, there were people who took charge of some of the projects. The Craft Show is being organized by Mrs. Zwegardt and Tammy Grice. While they have basically been in charge for years, they know they need the help of others to help set up tables and clean up.

We welcome any help, Mrs. Zwegardt said. Please call us at 785-332-2569 or Mrs. Grice at 332-2910, or just show up at the show.

We are running out of room for any more booths but if there is anyone wanting to bring their crafts to the Nov. 3 show, call them at the above phone numbers.

Check the ad elsewhere in this issue.

Lunch served

The ABC Preschool staff and parents will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. They will also be holding a bake sale. Money raised will be used to help with the preschool expenses.

PTA book fair

Teaming up with the Craft Show is the St. Francis PTA. Members will be holding their annual book fair in the cafeteria. This is one of the PTA's main money-making projects and the money goes to help the school and students.

Hometown Heros

By Karen Krien

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Benny and Kathy Weber have been named St. Francis Hometown Heros. For the last three years (and some in the past), they have invited classes of school children out to their garden north of St. Francis, to pick pumpkins to take home.

This year was no exception, despite the fact that it was an extremely poor year for pumpkins and other garden produce. Mrs. Weber, a former teacher, talked to the kids about growing pumpkins and how the hot temperatures this summer had pretty much kept the garden from growing. She also told them that deer and coyotes had also been destructive in the garden. Next year, Mr. Weber said, there will be a 6-foot fence to help keep the critters out.

In year's past, the Webers have had over 1,000 pumpkins and invited classes from St. Francis and Bird City to come pick pumpkins. This year, there were no more than 150 and some of those pumpkins were not in perfect condition. Lori Rieger, kindergarten teacher in the St. Francis school, had called in September asking if they were holding their pumpkin patch party again this year. We only had enough pumpkins to give to the kindergarten and first grade class, Mrs. Weber said.

While students are at the pumpkin patch, they are shown other things in the garden and it is a learning experience.

It was cold when the students went to the patch on Friday. However, after they had picked out the pumpkin they wanted,



HOMETOWN HEROS, Kathy and Benny Weber pick up after the St. Francis grade school kindergartners and first graders came to the pumpkin patch to pick out their own pumpkin, roast marshmallows, eat pumpkin cookies and drink cocoa.

they were served pumpkin cookies and hot chocolate. They also were able to roast marshmallows over barrels of coals Mr. Weber had ready for them.

Mr. Weber loves to raise a garden but they both work in it.

Giving away pumpkins to the children not only helps him clear the land so he can get it ready for next year's pumpkins but, "We love to see the twinkle in their eyes when they get their pumpkins," they said.

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Hospital billing topic at meeting

By Karen Krien

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At an earlier Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, questions were asked about the hospital's billing and if it couldn't be done within the county? At the commissioners' meeting on Monday, some of the questions were answered.

Judy Rockwood, new hospital administrator, and Heidi Tice, hospital chief financial officer, said they were representing Les Lacy, former hospital administrator, who was unable to be there.

The hospital's billing is done by a central billing office out of Hays. Mrs. Tice had the figures broken down and printed so each of the commissioners could see what it was costing. She explained that, with this type of billing, it would cost about \$3,000 more a month if the billing was done within the county.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said that saving money wasn't the point - it is about keeping jobs and money in the county.

Mrs. Tice said the centralized billing office brings the money from accounts in quicker which does keep money in the county and it is more accurate billing system. These accountants, she said, know all the rules and regulations. Medi-

care, Medicaid and insurance do not want to pay - they are tricky. If we have something wrong with the billing, they just kick it off and we get nothing.

Great Plains Health Alliance (the company which leases the hospital), she said, has people who deal with contracts. By knowing what the contracts are, it saves us a lot of money.

The commissioners agreed that they had never seen the information containing these figures before and appreciated the time and effort to provide it.

"We have to get smart with our money, Ms. Rockwood said. "We are having to work with less and less but still expected to produce quality care and not cut services."

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he has dealt with the hospital's

billing on a number of occasions and found it confusing. I never pay until I have received at least two bills, he said. Dale Patton, chairman, said he felt the same confusion.

Ms. Rockwood suggested that maybe one way the staff could help patients with their billing accounts is to have them call the hospital. We have access to the accounts and can help them if people didn't want to contact the 800 number on the bill.

She praised the people of the county as well as the hospital, staff and physicians.

"We can do a better job of marketing what we do have," she said, "we just need to think outside the box."

"We need to work together," Mr. Patton said. "There is competition out there and we need to work smart."

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Thank You
 A big thank you to everyone who contributed, donated, volunteered, participated and/or attended Haigler's 5th annual Fall Tumbleweed Festival. It was a great day of celebration. Thanks to each of you! Stan and LaNeta Carlock and The Festival Committee

St. Francis FFA
Fruit & Cheese Sale
Great Christmas Gifts
 Contact any FFA member or call 785-332-8161

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For a complete property information packet and auction process details, contact:
 A-19904
Farmers National Company
Rick Johnson, AFM/Agent McCook, Nebraska
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Leading-edge chemotherapy treatments are now available close to home!

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 -Leota Brown (With her pal, Bubbles)

Leota Brown is one busy lady. She's a seamstress, hat maker, cake decorator, cross-stitch designer, and master angler. She's best friend to her dog, Bubbles, too. Leota has better ways to spend her time than driving 75 miles to North Platte for chemotherapy treatments.

Receiving chemotherapy treatments in McCook is so important for busy people like Leota. Our new Oncology Services suite offers leading-edge chemotherapy treatments in a spacious area for infusions, with an area dedicated solely to chemotherapy treatments coming soon.

Leota works with visiting oncologist, Dr. Maria DeVilla of the Callahan Cancer Center in North Platte, and enjoys our certified chemotherapy nurses so much, she thinks of them as family.

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