



**MATT SMULL, fireman, tries on a new pair of gloves that were purchased with a grant.** Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Volunteer firemen have had a busy year

The St. Francis firemen have had a busy year, mostly because of the dry, hot weather conditions during the summer. George Harper, fire chief, reported there were 78 runs recorded this year compared to the average of 34 to 40 runs in prior years. There were also 1,113 man hours put in fighting fires.

With so many hours fighting fires in the intense heat, we really appreciated the help and cooperation of businesses, farmers and the public, Chief Harper said. People donated water and sports drinks as well as snacks and businesses and farmers donated equipment to haul water and work areas to contain the fires.

The department is getting a used truck ready to become a tanker truck. The county commissioners have approved that the county road and bridge shop guys help get the tanker ready to go before spring and summer fires begin.

During the 2012 year, the volunteer fire department:

- Made 38 runs with 353 man hours to extinguish grass, wheat and stubble fires.
  - Made five runs, 89 man hours, to extinguish round bales which had caught fire.
  - Made one run with six man hours on search and rescue.
  - Made one run for a vehicle fire (three man hours).
  - Made one run for a gas leak (12 man hours).
  - Made 16 runs with 118 man hours to assist with vehicle accidents.
  - Made four runs with 71 man hour for electrical-caused fires.
  - Made two false alarms runs (12 man hours).
  - Made 10 mutual aide runs using 76 man hours.
  - Firemen spent 326 hours in training.
- "Last year was a busy year," Chief Harper said. "And, the weather forecasters are predicting another dry summer so we could repeat last year's numbers."

## Blood needed every day for emergencies

Like the emergency room of a hospital, the American Red Cross must be prepared to respond to patient emergencies with blood products 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Through the dedication of blood donors, the Red Cross can be prepared day in and day out, no matter when or where blood is needed.

Readily available blood helps save the lives of people like David Zien, who was on his way home on his motorcycle when the SUV in front of him lost control during a lane change and flipped onto its side, sending Zien nearly 350 feet. He was transported by helicopter to a hospital, where he received 32 pints of blood. Today, Zien says he attributes much of his survival to the generosity of blood donors.

All blood types are currently needed. For more information and to make an appointment, visit red-

crossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Cheyenne County, Thursday, Feb. 14, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 202 N. College in St. Francis.

**How to donate blood**

Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

# Local business makes big splash

**By Tim Burr**  
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A local business, HighNoon Feeds, made a big splash last week at the National Western Stock Show, held in Denver.

According to Nick Ketzner, owner and operator, HighNoon Feeds was fed to a good number of the high-placing animals at the show. HighNoon, Nick said, was used by the grand champion and reserve champion market lamb winners, and the grand champion goat winner, along with eight of the 10 finalists in the market lamb division.

He also said that HighNoon was fed to the grand champion market steer, a crossbred that was owned by Shilo Schaake, son of well known Kansas State judging coach, Dr. Schaake. Nick said he also provided feed to a number of other local showers and exhibitors.

HighNoon Feeds was established in 2001 by the Nick Ketzner family.

"We've gone through a lot of

changes, challenges and growth since then," Nick said. "We started off as a one-man operation with basically a scoop shovel and a couple of bags. Now, with equipment and processes, we feel like we can do a top rate job."

The biggest challenge for HighNoon feeds was recovering from the 2007 tornado, which completely destroyed the business, and Nick's and Heidi's homestead.

"That was a bad day," he said. "But, with a lot of work, and help from friends and neighbors and family, we are back stronger than ever."

HighNoon Feeds now produces about 60 to 70 tons of feed per week, around 4,000 tons annually. The feed is sold from Nebraska to Texas, and from Iowa to Wyoming.

"We don't make a commercial feed, we specialize in show feeds for 4-H and FFA, all the way to professional show fitters. We are excited that our customers have done so well at the Stock Show."



**NICK KETZNER bags some feed for a customer.** Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Sainty could help people rebuild lives

**By Keary Carman**

Trauma destroys lives! St. Francis can help rebuild them, and we can do this by utilizing the natural resources already at our disposal. By doing so, this area can become a beacon of light for the rest of the nation. As politicians continue to try and solve humanity's biggest challenge with their own egos, the answer will unexpectedly arise from the very northwest corner of Kansas.

We start this process by securing and remodeling the Assembly of God Church. We turn the bottom floor into a dormitory-style living area,

and the top into office space, an art gallery and library. Outside, we create a garden area where residents can find peace, as well as develop a green thumb of their own.

We staff and house the facility with combat veterans. A cycle of benefit is then created, when veterans help each other – the community helps veterans – veterans help the community – and we'll all join forces to create projects that help trauma survivors around the world.

We take the process slow, step by step. Trauma isn't going anywhere.

## New board member sworn in at meeting

**By Scott E. Knebel**  
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The Cheyenne County hospital board met on Jan. 24. The main agenda of the meeting was to swear in a new board member, elect new officers and recognize outgoing board member Jerry Toler.

At the meeting Terry Miller, Cheyenne county clerk swore in the new board member Rick Rogers. Mr. Toler, resigning board president, addressed the board for the final time. One of Mr. Toler's concerns is the lack of patient registration privacy. "We have patients checking in sharing all of their private information at the front counter which is in ear shot of people in the waiting room" he said. "This could lead to a HIPPA violation and needs to be corrected sooner than later." Another concern of Mr. Toler's is that special diets be followed and worked through to ensure that the patients needs were being met.

Kari Gilliland, board member thanked Mr. Toler for his years of service and Les Lacy, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, presented Mr. Toler a plaque for his years of dedication and service. Kari Gilliland then opened the floor for nominations for new officers. Mrs. Gilliland was elected to serve as president, Erika Zimbleman as vice chairperson and secre-

tary, Jane Young will continue as treasurer.

In other topics, employee surveys were sent out to find if there were any employee needs or concerns that needed addressed and physician evaluations were sent out to patients for feedback to discover how they thought of the care they received while a patient at the hospital.

Great Plains commented that the server issues with the computer system being slow has been looked into and is being worked on.

A new Kansas Health Youtube video was shown on the numbers compiled from the 127 hospitals within the state, showing statistics from across the state and to inform the public of the potential \$1.3 billion in cutbacks in the state health departments.

The next meeting will be, at 3pm Tuesday Feb. 26 in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

### Weather

Date	Low	High	Prec
Jan. 22	60	12	
Jan. 23	53	15	
Jan. 24	47	13	
Jan. 25	57	20	
Jan. 26	63	20	.03
Jan. 27	57	25	
Jan. 28	65	24	T

## City council meets with commissioners

**By Scott E. Knebel**  
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Cheyenne County commissioners Dale Patton and Brett Poling met with St. Francis city council on Monday January 28 to discuss the ice build up at the entrance to the St. Francis Emergency building.

There have been several falls on the ice created by the snow dripping from the roof onto the concrete pad in front of the entrance to the building. "The cost to keep the underground boiler system running full time to prevent the ice build up on the concrete pad is not cost effective at the cost of \$4000 a month and is not being a good steward of the counties dollars" said Commissioner Dale Patton. After several ideas were talked about and an hour long discussion, it was decided that a committee made of up members from the city of St. Francis, Dale Patton, Dave Fleming for the county, the EMS director Janelle Bowers, St. Francis Fire Chief George Harper, and emergency management director Ryan Murray will meet and make recommendations to the city and county.

Helen Dobbs, also in attendance, asked the city council what size flag that the city would have flown over the capital in Topeka in honor of the upcoming St. Francis 125th celebration. It was decided by the council that Glorianne Milne St. Francis city clerk, will work with Mrs. Dobbs on this project.

The topic of new chairs and tables for the scout hut was discussed. The old tables and chairs

had been donated and were in sad repair and needed to be replaced. J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city superintendent, asked the council for \$3,034 to purchase eight new tables, 60 new chairs and 2 storage racks. The council decided to approve the purchase of four tables, 30 chairs and only one storage rack for a total of \$1517. Nearly \$600 of the \$1500 needed to purchase the new chairs and tables has already been donated.

In other news, no changes were made in the renter's utility deposit although the city had been asked to make exceptions. The Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance health plans will be looked into in the coming meetings. There was no police report or building permits discussed.

In the superintendent's report Mr. Landenberger stated that Gordon Ross had completed the design of the new railings and will be working on those as time allows. Verizon requested to place two additional antenna's on the water tower. The compressor for the power plant had been sent to Denver for repair as it had failed. Robert Grace will be taking new photos of the city buildings in the spring to update city hall. The council approved Mr. Landenberger's report.

Carla Lampe reported that there has been much anticipation over the new LED sign to be placed on Highway 36 and to look for more information to be discussed in the next few weeks.

The next meeting for the city council is on February 11, at 7:30pm

## Luncheon meeting planned for Feb. 11

The producers appreciation luncheon and 63rd annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Conservation district will be held at noon on Monday, Feb. 11, at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

A meal, sponsored by the Cheyenne County Bankers Association will start the afternoon activities followed by the district supervisors reviewing the 2012 activities and financial reports.

The term of Mark Keller is expiring and an election will be held to fill the position.

The presentation of the Kansas Bankers Soil Conservation and Windbreak awards will be presented along with the Cheyenne County Home Garden award.

Dale Strickler will discuss the importance of cover crops and the implementation in current crop rotations.

The St. Francis New Generation Fund and Community Foundation is soliciting applications for a \$2,000 grant for projects which are for the betterment of St. Francis. Multiple recipients may split the \$2,000.

To learn more and download a grant application, please visit <http://sfcommunityfoundation.org>, or pick up an application at the St. Francis City Office. The deadline for the applications is March 1, 2013, and the mailing address is SFNGF&CF, PO Box 967, St. Francis, KS, 67756.

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