



TUESDAY, SNOW FELL most of the morning in St. Francis. Kathy Woodcox's wagon with the flag flying showed the snow and the breeze that accompanied it.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Group selects alumni week for celebration

By Karen Krien

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About 30 people attended a meeting specifically held to talk about St. Francis' quasiquintennial or 125th year in existence. People there agreed that they wanted the celebration and, after considerable discussion, they voted to have the celebration in conjunction with the St. Francis high school alumni.

They also agreed that the celebration needed to be tied with an event that would draw people to town. Other suggestions for dates included Fourth of July, the fair and homecoming.

The Fourth of July was eliminated because wheat harvest, in the past, has fallen on that date and there were several of the key people who would not be able to help.

The fair draws a lot of people. However, it takes many volunteers to help with rides and games along with the number of adults and kids involved in 4-H that there would no one left to help with the 125th.

Homecoming, it was pointed out, is not what it used to be and involves mostly students in school.

Activities

Activities for the celebration were discussed. Glenn Isernhagen felt like the entire week should be left open for those wanting to have activities. There are two events that appeared to be set for the 125th celebration.

Glenn Zwegardt, nationally acclaimed

sculptor who was born and raised in St. Francis, will hold a show in St. Francis. He will have five or six large sculpture and 12 to 15 smaller ones which he will leave in St. Francis for a year. They will be for sale with a portion of the money staying in St. Francis. Eddy and Sherry Schultz and Junior Rath have taken charge of this project.

Karen Uplinger, daughter of Bob and Martha Uplinger, has volunteered to open the Josephine Churchill home on Emerson Street for tours. Ms. Uplinger, the niece of Mrs. Churchill, owns the house which is one of the oldest in St. Francis. The Historical Society will take care of this event. There are possibly other activities which will take place at the museum and old church.

Travis Jensen said there are a number of men interested in a beard contest. Milton Lampe, who was a main coordinator of the St. Francis Centennial, said buttons were sold to those men not wanting to grow a beard and, if they were caught without their button, it would cost them again. The group thought this might be a consideration for raising money.

Many ideas were discussed. Some of them included a chili cook off opposed to a barbecue cook off because of the cost of meat and prizes. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the middle of June might be kind of hot for chili.

Other suggestions included the Art

See SELECTS on Page 7A

Singing Valentines available

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, music students at St. Francis Community High School can be heard practicing love songs in preparation for their annual "Singing Valentine" delivery on Feb. 14.

A singing Valentine consists of a helium-filled balloon with a small bag of candy and a love song.

Despite rising costs of supplies and candy, the price of a singing Valentine remains the same as it was when this project began about 12 years ago. Students are also offering the option of an additional gift (small plush Valentine animal, larger bag of candy or other items) for a few extra dollars.

Order forms for singing Valentines are available in posters at the high school office, the post office bulletin board, and Bella's Market. High school vocal, band and advanced music students can also take orders and answer questions about the project.

Check the advertisement in this issue for more information.



MUSIC STUDENTS, Lane Kuper, Wyatt Landenberg, Jacob Butler, kneeling, practice songs for their singing Valentine promotion.

Herald staff photo by Scott Knebel

Legislator holds town meeting

Kansas First District Congressman Tim Huelskamp will hold a town hall meeting in St. Francis from 8 to 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31, in the courthouse.

"There is a lot of concern about the direction of Washington right now, and I am glad to hear from as many people as possible about where we need to be headed," Mr. Huelskamp said.

Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet following Mr. Huelskamp's meeting. Listed on the agenda under old business is updating the employee handbook. At 10 a.m. Randy Hrabe, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, will meet with the commissioners at 10 a.m.; Cody Beeson, sheriff, will be there at 10:30; Carol Redding, 11 a.m. and Adam Peter, landfill, at 11:30 a.m. Laurie Knebel, dispatch, will be called when time is available.



DR. JIMMY SITES, center right, visits with Pastor Jeff Landers about the program held Monday at the First Christian Church in St. Francis. Dr. Sites is the producer and host of the television program, 'Spiritual Outdoor Adventures.' Rex Murray, left, and Wilson Burton listen to the arrangements.

St. Francis resident earns U.S. citizenship

By Karen Krien

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Lounie Erskin became a United States citizen on Friday, Jan. 18, in a "Natural Proceeding" ceremony held in Wichita.

To Lounie, it was a special ceremony. I was proud, she said. The ceremony was overwhelming, just to think how special they made it for us.

Lounie, one of six children, was raised in Mailag, a small village in the Philippines. She came to the United States in December 2006, married Bud Erskin and moved to St. Francis.

When she arrived in the states, she applied for conditional residency which is good for two years. Before it expired, she applied for a permanent residency, also known as a "green card."

She said she had to live in the United States for at least three years before she could apply for her citizenship. After applying, she was given information to help her through the citizenship process. She had to be fingerprinted and her photo taken.



Lounie Erskin

Her test, given by a U.S. immigration officer, was both an oral and written exam.

At the ceremony, she and over 100 oth-

See EARNS on Page 7A