



## Garage sales bring many to St. Francis

By Amanda Miller

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Visitors from across the country trickled into town this weekend as the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt took place. Trucks pulling trailers full of furniture and antiques could be seen driving up and down the streets of Saint Francis. The sun was shining, and the air was crisp. It was perfect bargain hunting weather.

Over 40 garage sale sites were on the Cheyenne county map. Several of the vendors on the map had participated the previous years and opened Thursday evening as shoppers arrived in town.

Friday morning was buzzing with shoppers. Several vendors were open early that morning and had sold items before some people had arrived to work. The Treasure Hunt number signs that correlated with the map could be seen throughout town.

Several groups of people from Nebraska, Colorado and eastern Kansas were seen shopping at the sales this year. A group of friends from Nebraska came down with a trailer to enjoy the shopping. One of the women explained that they were getting deals on furniture and decorations for their business. Over the years, people as far as California and Montana have visited for the

sales.

Sellers seemed to notice that Friday was very busy, and sales slowed over Saturday and Sunday. However, buyers continued to arrive steadily throughout the weekend to buy whatever treasures they could find.

For those that were out of town or unable to visit the garage sales, the United Methodist thrift store may have some things you are looking for. Many of the sellers who had clothing, furniture and other goodies that did not sell opted to donate it to the thrift store rather than packing it back into boxes and storing it.

The thrift store was bombarded with donations after the Treasure Hunt. Buyers can get some items at an even lower price, while helping the community.

The Treasure Hunt has grown each year. Some people plan their vacation so they can travel the entire route. Others are content to stay at home and shop the local garage sales. There is a website, [www.ushwy36.com](http://www.ushwy36.com), which has also grown.

The 2014 U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt will be held the third weekend in September. With growing sellers and buyers, the ninth annual Treasure Hunt is sure to be a great time.



PEOPLE CAME FROM EVERYWHERE, including five of these ladies from Nebraska, (above) who came with a trailer to buy furniture and other decorations. Below, left, Shirley Sherlock had many, many cookie jars, below, right, the Northrup lot on Benton Street was open four days for the sale.

Herald staff photos by Amanda Miller



## Traveling hay bales burn on U.S. 36

U.S. 36 Highway was closed between Road 25 and 28 Sunday night after a semi loaded with hay caught fire and became fully engulfed by flames.

The initial report, said Ryan Murray, emergency manager, was called in to Cheyenne County dispatch at approximately 8:50 p.m. Traffic was rerouted as crews from Bird City and St. Francis fire departments, sheriff's officers, emergency management, county road and bridge, and the Kansas Department of Transportation worked to contain the fire and maintain safety.

The highway was closed for about five hours to allow space for the emergency crews to work, and to ensure the safety of motorists. Because of the high wind speeds, the crews had to work quickly to contain the fire and keep it from spreading to nearby fields.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, Mr. Murray said, and is unknown at this time. The highway was cleared for traffic at approximately 3 a.m. Monday morning.

No one was injured in the incident.



FIREMEN AND OTHERS worked together to put out the burning hay bales Sunday night on U.S. 36 between Wheeler and Bird City. Photo courtesy of Ryan Murray

## Home health provider plans second inspection

By Karen Krien  
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In this week's Herald and Times, on page 9 and 5 respectively, there is a public notice announcing that the home health services offered by Northwest Kansas Home Care will be terminated after Oct. 16. The agreement was made between the secretary of Health and Human Services and the Northwest Kansas Home Care in St. Francis (not the nursing home). The facility was a home health agency provider in the Health Insurance for the Aged and Disabled Program (Medicare).

The centers for Medicare and Medicaid services determined that the home care provider

was not in compliance with Medicare regulations for Home Health Agencies.

The home health care provider is operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society.

The St. Francis home care provider, said Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations for Kansas, did not pass inspection. However, he said, the Society's National Campus has been providing resources to help correct any outstanding deficiencies.

We will have the opportunity to pass the next inspection before Oct. 16, he said, and I am confident we will pass it. We will continue to provide home care service to St. Francis and other area citizens.