



Gov. Sam Brownback and his staff flew into St. Francis in a King Air Super 350.



GOV BROWNBACK, left, and Ward Cassidy, 120th District Representative, talked while visiting The Breaks north of St. Francis.

Herald staff photos by Amanda Miller

## Governor visits Cheyenne County

By Amanda Miller  
amiller@nwkansas.com

Governor Sam Brownback made his way up to northwest Kansas last week to tour the area and do some hunting. The Governor and his staff flew into Cheyenne County Airport on Nov. 15.

Governor Brownback was joined by a member of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Kansas City Chief's Duane Clemens, the governor's aide Bob Murray and some of the governor's family, to look at the Arikaree Breaks. Representative Ward Cassidy, Kody Krien, and Paula and Perry Keller were at the airport to greet the governor when he arrived and take him on the tour.

Governor Brownback was very impressed with the breaks, which was a finalist for the eight Wonders of Kansas. The group stopped to admire the rugged landscape and canyons while

discussing how this attraction can bring tourism to the area.

Currently, the breaks has walk-in hunting access. However, hiking or touring the area is limited to a self-guided driving tour. Representative Cassidy explained that liability to the land owners in the case of injury to a hiker prohibits owners from allowing hikers to explore the area. If the state would take over that liability, more people would come to tour the area.

Governor Brownback was very optimistic about getting hiking rights to the breaks, and said he thought it was very doable. He has already referred the issue to the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to find out if walking trails can be designated. If it is not possible, Representative Cassidy said that he would be writing a bill to make it so.

The governor also asked what some of the local concerns are

within the community. Answers ranged from getting a community pool to the water rights of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Governor Brownback listened with interest to the concerns.

Representative Cassidy said that he is, "Glad he knows we are out here! Any chance to talk to the governor about local issues benefits our area."

After touring the area, the governor flew to Norton to participate in the Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic. The hunt promotes the outdoors and hunting in northwest Kansas.

Governor Brownback and his staff flew into the Cheyenne County Airport in a King Air Super 350. This model has a cruising speed of about 300 knots (345 mph), said Robert Grace, operator of the airport.

It took a little over an hour for the governor and his group to make the 335 statute mile trip from Topeka. The two Pratt and

Whitney turboprop engines, each rated at over 1,000 horsepower, consumed approximately 150 gallons of Jet A fuel on that trip.

This particular airplane was built in 2001 by Raytheon, and is one of the top-of-the-line King Airs, which Beechcraft--

and later Raytheon--have been building planes since 1964.

## Holiday parade needs floats

By Amanda Miller  
amiller@nwkansas.com

With just over 40 days until Christmas, the countdown has officially begun! Christmas activities will begin soon in St. Francis, and there won't be any room for the Grinch.

Now is the time to start thinking about the Christmas Parade of Lights to be held on Friday, Nov. 29 at 6 p.m.

Floats and individual entries are needed to make this year's Parade of Lights light up Main Street for everyone to enjoy. People, young and old, love to come down and see the floats, the lights, and the people gathered to watch the event.

Light floats are easy to make, and anyone can enter! Children can be in the parade as well. Dress them as angels or elves or even Christmas presents. But, remember, the float cannot have a Santa. The only Santa allowed in the parade is the real Santa.

Santa will be at Bankwest after the Parade of Lights so that all the little boys and girls can let him know what they would like for Christmas.

There will be a Soup Supper before and during the parade from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Be sure to stop by and warm up with some soup!

You can also find Celebrate St. Francis memorabilia for sale outside the Herald office during the parade. The memorabilia makes great Christmas presents or stocking stuffers for everyone in St. Francis, or those living away who still want a connection.

Everyone come out to the Parade of Lights to kick off the Christmas season!



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS were strung across Main Street by the St. Francis city crew while the weather was nice on Monday and Tuesday. Earlier in the day on Monday, they were found in the city shop checking strings of lights and replacing bulbs. St. Francis probably has one of the prettiest Main Streets during the holidays and it is due to the city crew's efforts. Tell them thanks!

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Haigler school sold to local group

The former Haigler Elementary School building and gymnasium have been sold to a local group in the Haigler, Dundy County community.

The Dundy County Stratton Public Schools Board of Education voted Monday evening, Nov. 11, to accept the group's offer and proposal to preserve and re-purpose the buildings for community betterment and economic development in Dundy County and southwest Nebraska. The buildings had been for sale since the elementary school closed its doors in June of this year.

New owners will be the Haigler Community Foundation. Fund drives for the purchase dollars and first year's operating expenses have already begun. LaNeta Carlock, representing the local group, said "donor pledges from individuals

and organizations to date total \$10,000; and we are confident the needed funds will be raised."

All donations are tax deductible.

Ideas for optimum usage of the facilities will always be welcomed by the organizing group. Initially, the facilities will be available for business office rental; meeting rooms, event rentals, kitchen usage, library development, art gallery, exhibit space for continuing museum collections to preserve the history of Dundy County, craft fairs, flea markets, auctions, community thrift store, youth activities, adult education classes, recreation, community and economic development opportunities.

It is hoped the doors will be open again before spring arrives. Watch for further announcements.

## The fun begins!!

The tickets are out! For every \$10 people spend in participating businesses, they get a ticket. Save those tickets and bring them to the drawing on Dec. 16. You might be the winner of \$1,000 in scrip.

The Christmas On Us promotion began last week and with it is the excitement that builds each week as people accumulate tickets, hoping they have the lucky number to win \$1,000 in scrip.

There are nine St. Francis businesses participating in the Christmas On Us promotion: Bier's Hometown Store, Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts, Eagle Convenience Store, Owens True Value, Republican Valley Auto Parts, Schultz's Limited, St. Francis Super's, The Saint Francis Herald and the United Methodist Thrift Store.

With every \$10 spent in these businesses, the customer receives a ticket. However, it is not necessary to make a purchase in The Herald office as once a week, people can come in and get a free ticket.

Each week, in the B section of The Herald and Times, numbers

will be listed. The numbers without a "\*" will receive \$50 in scrip.

Some numbers will have an "\*" and these numbers mean the lucky person will receive a gift in one of the businesses. When matching the \* numbers, cards will be drawn at The Herald office and the winner and a photographer from The Herald will go to the business where they will be photographed receiving the prize.

The first drawing for tickets was Monday, and the numbers are in this issue on 1B and 2B. There will be a drawing for the next three weeks. The big drawing for \$1,000 and \$100 scrip, along with any leftover \$50 and gift prizes will be held on Monday, Dec. 16. The winners of the Christmas Coloring Contest and the Christmas Lighting Contest will be announced and prizes will be awarded.

Everyone is urged to collect their tickets and mark Dec. 16 on their calendar. Plan to attend and win!

