

Two members resign from fair board

By Leslie Hilt
Two board members turned in letters of resignation at the Jan. 3 Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting.
President Wade Krien read two letters of resignations — one from Lyn Wiley who had served on the board for 19 years and another from Troy Hilt, both of St. Francis. After read-

ing the letters President Krien said the he felt the board was losing two good members.
“I understand that we had a split board but whether or not we agree, we should back up the board on all decisions,” he said.
Election of officers was held. Dick Bursch and Wade Krien were nominated and, after a 5-to-4 vote, Mr. Bursch is now the president.

“I will try my best to serve you and will work hard to heal some things that happened,” the new president said.
John Finley is the new vice president and Shawn Blanka is the treasurer. The board then ask for nominations for secretary, Rita Koros introduced herself and stated that she would be interested in becoming a member and also tak-

ing the secretary spot. The board called a 10-minute executive session and, after coming out of the session, the board announced that Ms. Koros was accepted as a member. Rick Lucas nominated her for secretary. The board informed her that she could be reimbursed for her expenses but that she could not be paid a salary.

Budget Committee meets
The Fair Board Budget Committee had met and Mr. Lucas reported that the county gives \$16,000 for phone and gas which is around the amount that is spent.
The committee discussed what would happen if the grandstand fund was depleted. One idea
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Tax credits filled; clinic remodeling can now begin

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board and Administration are pleased to announce that the Community Service Project that used tax credits to generate a total of \$300,000 has been filled. This money will be used to expand and remodel the Cheyenne County Clinic. Remodeling will centralize some business office and nursing functions, while making the facility more convenient for both patients and staff. Important handicap accessibility requirements will also be addressed.
“It’s hard to say enough about the

people who supported this project,” said Les Lacy, hospital administrator. “It’s great to see so many people willing to make an investment in the Cheyenne County communities.
“I know that many supporters weren’t in a position to take advantage of the program this time, still, I know the support is there. Cheyenne County attorneys and accountants had a big part in getting the message out.
“The board has put in an enormous amount of time moving this project
See TAX CREDIT on Page 8A

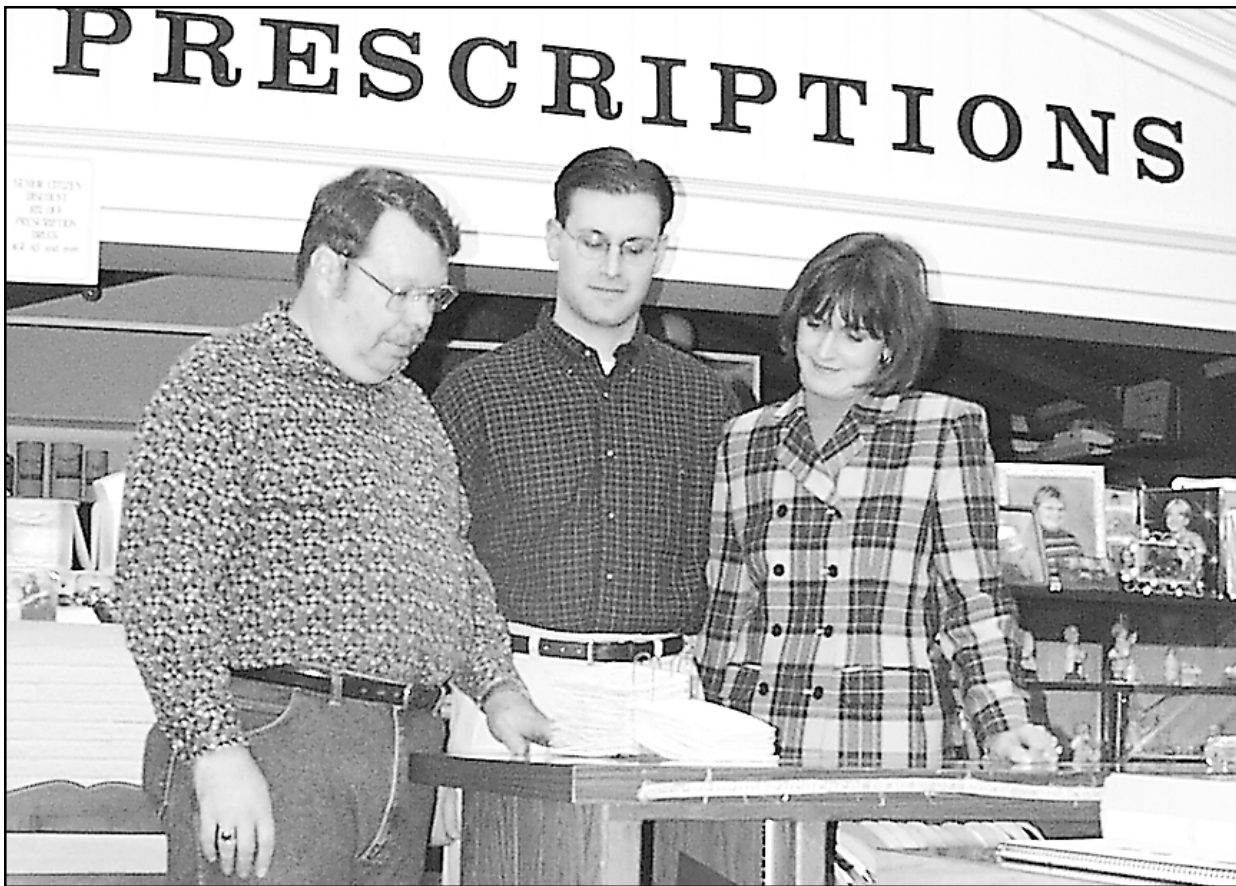
First baby of year to receive presents

By Karen Krien
There has been no baby claiming the title of “First Baby of the Year 2002.”
The contest began at the first of the year and the only requirement is that the baby be born to any parents living in Cheyenne County for one month or more. These parents and their new born infant will be given gifts from sponsors.
The rules are simple:
• As stated, the parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
• The St. Francis Herald office must be notified as soon as possible. The *Herald’s* number is 785-332-3162.
Last year’s first baby of the year was Hunter Michael Kriegh, son of Reid and Chaylene Kriegh. He has a sister, Mickey Ann.
Hunter was born in the middle of a blizzard at the Citizens Medical Center, Colby, on Feb. 8 and weighed 6

pounds, 14 ounces.
The parents of this year’s first baby winner will receive a full car wash from the St. Francis Equity, \$50 savings bond from Bankwest, \$50 savings bond from First National Bank, a toy from Van Allen Inc., \$15 gift certificate for baby food or formula and new born diapers from Sainty Super Foods, a special toy from Yost Farm Supply, a \$15 gift certificate from KM Clothier and a year’s subscription to *The St. Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.
The parents receiving the gifts should pick up their gifts or claim their services within 60 days after the birth.
Earlier, there were several babies due at the end of the year or first of the new year but some of these babies have already arrived. However, there are still a few babies due. Since most babies are not on schedule, it’s hard telling when the first baby of 2002 will be born.

Pharmacy business sells

By Karen Krien
Scott Wiley reported that he has sold Wiley’s Apothecary, St. Francis, to Kody and Penny Krien. They will be taking over the business on March 4.
Mr. Wiley purchased the business 22 years ago from Richard Getty.
“There have been a lot of loyal, wonderful people who supported the business,” Mr. Wiley said. “These last 22 years have been exciting and challenging and I have had some wonderful employees.”
In the future, Mr. Wiley will be a relief pharmacist and he and his wife Rebecca and family will continue to live in St. Francis.
Mr. Krien received his pharmaceutical degree in 1999 and he and Mrs. Krien and their son KC have been living in St. Francis.
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SCOTT WILEY, left, has sold Wiley’s Apothecary to Kody and Penny Krien. The Kriens will take over the business on March 4.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

School board discusses plans for building

By Karen Krien
The St. Francis Board of Education again discussed the proposed commons area and new gymnasium and reviewed a rough drawing made by the superintendent when they met Monday evening.
The architect Glen Strait had not drawn up the plans but Superintendent Carl Werner had made a rough drawing showing a proposed commons area. The area would be approximately 100-feet long and 65-feet wide and would attach to the south side of the present gym. The area would be wide enough

to include the two south doors into the old gym but not as wide as the gym. Board member Gene Dodd wondered if the area would look better if it were as wide but the superintendent pointed out that the wrestling/weight room to the east wasn’t as wide as the gym and it might look okay.
The plans for the commons area showed storage to the north, concession sales area on the east, rest rooms on the south and entries on the west. There was ample space to display trophies and a proposed underground rampway to the new gym.

Superintendent Werner pointed out that if the board would rather see the gym built first, a space could be left and the commons area built later.
The talk turned to financing the projects. The money could come from the Capital Outlay Fund but there are schools in the area which are now building with lease purchase options. Superintendent Werner had received information from the Kansas Capital Outlay Fund which has \$50 million in reserve for Kansas Schools to use as lease purchases.
With a lease purchase, the bank pays

for the construction and owns the building. The school board leases the building for a certain number of years until the building is paid off. With this option, the school does not have to borrow money.
The superintendent had called the Kansas Capital Outlay Fund officials who informed him that the interest rate is now 5 percent and it could be locked in at that amount. By using a lease purchase agreement, the school board would not use all of its Capital Outlay Funds which would then be available
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TAKING ADVANTAGE of the warm weather — The city crew took the Christmas lights off of the trees last week. The sun was shining but the air up in the buckets was a little chilly. Pictured are Earl Hankins and Glenn Schliep (right).

Commissioners agree that money goes to the hospital

By Karen Krien
The Cheyenne County Commissioners ended the year with a meeting on Dec. 31 where business was finalized and they met with the Calhoun Township Board.
Members of the Calhoun Township Board included Robert Draper, Jerdene Barnhart, Walter Douthit and Wayne Goodell and they were concerned about the money brought from the sale of the South Fork Schoolhouse. They had earlier decided at a township meeting to donate the money, amounting to \$20,000, to the Cheyenne County Hospital Board. However, after they had given the money, they were informed that it really was not the township’s board to give — that the money was to go into the county’s general fund.

Kevin Berens, county attorney, said that technically, that was where the money belonged and then the commissioners could designate where the money would go. Mr. Goodell reported that most of the township people had wanted to give it to the hospital and the board was asking that the commissioners would see that their wishes would be carried out.
There was little discussion before the commissioners agreed that the \$20,000 would first be taken to the county treasurer Delores Jenik and she would, in turn, write a check to the hospital board for the township board to deliver.
The commissioners noted that they respected the township board for their
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Chamber players perform Sunday

On Sunday, Jan. 13, 2002, at 3 p.m., the Boston Mountain Chamber Players (BMCP) will present a recital of works for woodwind quintet and saxophone at the Cheyenne Theatre, 104 E. Washington, St. Francis, Kan.
The Boston Mountain Chamber Players, in residence at the University of Arkansas, is the largest chamber music ensemble in that state and has recently been awarded a prestigious spot on the roster of the “Ar-

kansas Arts on Tour” program administered by the Arkansas Arts Council. The group has also won a similar spot on the Heartland Arts Fund “Community Connections” Touring Roster, which encompasses a 15-state area from Texas to North Dakota to Ohio. The Boston Mountain Chamber Players was formed to provide quality chamber music to audiences throughout the Midwest region.
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RESIGN

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submitted was that maybe each event could pay something like 40 percent of the gate money and the fair board members do the cleanup and security.
President Bursch said, "If we were to do it (cleanup and security), someone would need to be there all the time, everyday."
Mr. Finley questioned if they could even to that? The president noted that he didn't know as he hadn't seen many members with nothing to do. Mr. Krien agreed. He mentioned what a great job the groundskeeper and his family had

done and also how many hours that this family had put in. No decision was made.
Extension council
Dale Weeks was there to represent the extension council. Mr. Weeks stressed that the two boards need to work together and communicate — possibly sharing their minutes with each other so that each would know what was going on.
"It might help eliminate some problems," he said.
Red ribbon money
Mr. Weeks also reported on the Red Ribbon Fund. Mr. Weeks said that the businesses donated 5 percent of their

money spent to this fund which amounted to \$1,125. Four 4-H'ers received this money — one 4-H'er in livestock, the other three were in arts and crafts and/or photography.
The businessmen figured an average of high and low premiums for livestock. The 4-H'er in livestock was then given \$400. The same process was done to come up with an average for non-livestock projects and those kids received \$200 a piece.
There was \$125 dollars leftover. After contacting all businesses, it was found that the businessmen did not want the money back, and wanted to donate the money wherever the council saw fit. Rex Murray, extension council member, also stated that neither board came up with the Red Ribbon Fund. It was the businessmen.

Rex Murray, extension council chairperson, ask why people don't come to the extension meetings?
"Our meetings are open meetings and we welcome anyone to come," he said

Premium Sale

There was discussion as to which organization was in charge of the Premium Sale. Betty Petersen, who has worked with the sale for a number of years, was present to answer some question and explain where and how the account works. The money which the items and livestock receive at the sale goes into Sale Barn Livestock account and, once everything is figured, \$5 to \$10 is deducted from the kid's checks. The checks are written off the livestock account.

The money deducted is then put in the Premium Sale account. This account has never been used for anything except expense for the sale. Mr. Murray said that the extension council could put the account in the fair board's name if needed. Mrs. Petersen reported that there was \$3,099 in the account. The board discussed that the auditor had brought up these concerns and they decided to visit with him more about this account and if the account needs to be changed.

Mrs. Petersen expressed that it was a good idea to take pictures of the grand and reserve champion livestock and their premium buyers. She felt like the buyers would appreciate it.

In other business

In other business:
• It was announced that the Antique Tractor Association would not be available for the fair this year. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Next meeting

The fair board budget will be discussed next meeting which is scheduled to be held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

BUILDING

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if needed. Cliff Raile, board member, pointed out that, even though they would be paying interest, if it were locked in a very low rate, the school's Capital Outlay Funds could be gaining interest at possibly higher rates.

Superintendent Werner will investigate more into lease purchase options and will be visiting schools with gymnasiums and common areas similar to those proposed for St. Francis.

"I and possibly the architect will be visiting with the school personnel (of these schools) to see what they like and would change," Superintendent Werner said.

School report card

The Kansas School Building Report Card for the St. Francis elementary and junior-senior high schools was reviewed. Out of 22 different areas ranging from math and science to reading and social studies in specific grades, St. Francis students were slightly down in only two of the areas compared to the state average. Look for further information in a later issue of The St. Francis Herald.

In other business

In other business:
• The heat costs for this school year

was down from \$4,411 last year to \$3,151 this year. The superintendent said this was probably due to the fact that the winter has been warmer this year and the school had a better gas rate. The electricity cost was also down.

• The high school track team now has three coaches, Tim Lambert, Chuck Peters and assistant Terri Orth. Coach Lambert felt that another coach was needed to replace Ted Busse who will be coaching junior high track. Several possibilities are being explored and the administration will probably have a recommendation at the next meeting.

• The superintendent submitted his automobile expenses for the last quarter of 2001. In the year of 2001, he traveled 437 miles for the school and charged \$.345 per mile which cost the school \$150.77.

• The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center proposed that a general meeting be held to discuss problems in education in Kansas, especially northwest Kansas, and that all board members attend. The board agreed that their choices for meeting dates would be Feb. 9, the first choice; and March 23 as the second choice.

• Principal Scott Carmichael reported that a program by a national speaker on handling grief will be held Feb. 5 and 6. The plans for those days are tentative and definite plans will be announced later.

• For the schools to continue to qualify for educational-rate (e-rate) discounts on the telephone service and internet service, the school is required to update the Technology Plan this year. The policies were reviewed and read. The second reading and approval will be held at the February board meeting.

Next meeting

The February board meeting has been set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 14 in the board meeting room at the high school.



SAINTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN were called to extinguish a fire on land belonging to Roger Jensen, northwest of town. Several acres of grass were burned.

TAX CREDIT

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along too. I'm not sure we could have filled up in time without the efforts of Rueben Schultz and Bob Van Allen."

The contributors represent a cross-section of Cheyenne County. A variety of individuals and businesses took advantage of the 70-percent tax credits to make their donated dollars go further.

"Both Bankwest and First National Bank were \$50,000 donors early to identify the benefits and get us off to a good start. Security State Bank was also a key part of the foundation of the project," said

Administrator Lacy. "Commitment and cooperation from everyone is what makes this a success."

The next step

The next step is for the hospital board and administration to talk to the architect and, after the next board meeting, Administrator Lacy hopes to have a firm start date.

The addition to the clinic will be to square the building out, building on to the northeast of the clinic. The new addition will include a larger waiting room and some of the business office.

MONEY

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efforts and their choice to promote the hospital with the money.

Delinquent tax sale

Both Treasurer Jenik and Attorney Berens reported on the delinquent tax sale which will be coming up probably in March. There are only three parcels to be sold.

One of the properties up for sale is the old theater in Bird City. The commissioners were concerned as to what would happen if the property did not sell and the county would become the owners? What were the legalities in cleaning up the property? What if the property would be condemned?

The county attorney said that if there are repairs or demolition of a building required on condemned property, that the owner of the parcel would be liable for the repairs and if needed, would use a special assessment on the property.

The questions were discussed but it was noted that there may not be any problems and they would be dealt with after the sale.

"It is our duty to the taxpayers of the county to clean up and keep the public safe," said Commissioner Tim Raile.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, and the commissioners discussed digging and using poor gravel compared to trucking good gravel further distances. Both Commissioners Raile and Ron Krien agreed that they would prefer to truck the gravel knowing that good gravel was going to be used even if it required purchasing more equipment.

Supervisor Flemming said that he had ordered some culverts for a bridge totaling \$4,000 and would encumber the money out of the 2001 budget. He also encumbered \$15,000 for the excavation of gravel.

Write offs

The secretary of the Emergency Medical Service, Janelle Bowers, submitted more ambulance collection write offs amounting to \$15,688 with some of the bills dating back to 1997. It was noted that two people had contacted the service and said they would pay their balance which made the total write off \$14,969.

Larry Gabel, director, had asked to encumber money over to next year to pay Beth Gabel's teaching salary. The board said they could not encumber any money as there was no money left in the ambulance budget. Commissioner Raile felt that he would rather pay Mrs. Gabel out of this year's General Fund rather than take it out of the next year's ambulance fund, especially since this payment had not been budgeted for. Mr. Gabel was notified and agreed with the arrangement.

Insurance

Kelly Frewen, Frewen Insurance Agency, and Roxie Neitzel, Neitzel Insurance Service, submitted their bid for workmen's compensation and building/equipment insurance for the county. There was a 24-percent discount on the workmen's compensation because there were no claims made. The total cost of the insurance for the year will be \$54,216. Mr. Frewen said he would like to attend the next commissioner meeting with the final insurance policy but in the meantime, he presented each commissioner a copy to review.

Later in the meeting, the board discussed the bids for the county's insurance and with a minimal difference in quotes, they agreed to accept the local insurance agents (Neitzel and Frewen) bid.

Talk turned to the health insurance premiums. After discussion, there was a motion to increase the insurance by a 3-

The remodeling will centralize the remainder of the business office and the nurses station, add exam rooms, improve offices and address handicap accessibility issues such as the bathroom and entryway.

At the December hospital board meeting, the possibility of installing an elevator which will include the clinic basement area with the rest of the building was discussed. At the present time, the basement is used as a meeting room and for storage.

percent figure. This will ensure the Cheyenne County Insurance Pool will remain enough to cover all expenses.

New computers

Treasurer Jenik reported that a new computer was needed for her office and she would encumber the cost of the computer out of the 2001 budget. The computer works on a terminal which is obsolete. Clerk Terry Miller said that one of the computers in his office also works on a terminal and he will be replacing it.

In other business

In other business:
• Resolutions for transfers of encumbered funds were signed as part of the end-of-the-year business.

• The firm of Anderson and Eldridge was approved as the county's accountants.

• Hospital board member Ruben Schultz's term will expire in January 2002. The clerk was instructed to place a notice in the Cheyenne County newspapers to run Jan. 16 to announce to anyone wishing to serve on the hospital board to contact the clerk's office and then attend the Jan. 31 meeting.

• The clerk will send out a memo reminding department heads to have their employee evaluations in by Jan. 14.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be at 8 a.m. on Monday at the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis.

RALLY

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ethanol/90-percent gasoline

Dwight Faylor, St. Francis Equity, reported that he uses ethanol in all of his vehicles.

"Ethanol just burns and runs better and will give lots better gas mileage," he said, adding that he has found that ethanol burns cleaner and helps the performances in most vehicles.

Ethanol provides high quality, low cost octane for exceptional engine performance. Several racing teams in national and international competitions use ethanol because of its performance.

Ethanol vs. oil imports

The United States currently imports approximately 54 percent of its oil, making it dependent on governmental policies and economies of other nations. With the production of ethanol today, the demand for imported oil is reduced by more than 90,000 barrels a day.

The use of ethanol not only decreases the dependence on foreign oil but also helps the farmers, thus helping farming communities such as those in northwest Kansas. The ethanol industry also creates jobs and improves commodity prices.

WHO WILL ARRIVE FIRST IN 2002?

As we step into the New Year, many expectant parents are excitedly awaiting the arrival of a new baby as well. If you're expecting a special delivery on or around the first of the year, you could win a shower of valuable gifts in our **FIRST BABY OF THE NEW YEAR CONTEST**. These area merchants are pleased to welcome the first baby of 2002 with a bundle of free prizes:

FREE Full Car Wash
St. Francis Equity
105 S. River
St. Francis
785-332-2421

a special TOY
Van Allen Inc.
Wheeler
785-332-2124

\$15 Gift Certificate
KM
116 W. Washington
St. Francis
785-332-3434

\$50 Savings Bond
Colby, Goodland, Kirk, Oberlin, Quinter, Sharon Springs, St. Francis
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
www.fnib.com

a special TOY
YFS YOST FARM SUPPLY
ST. FRANCIS
GOODLAND
IMPERIAL, NE

\$50 Savings Bond
FDIC BANKWEST
OF KANSAS
SUNWEST
BANKS OF COLORADO
A MEMBER OF BANKWEST FINANCIAL

FREE Subscription
to the
The St. Francis Herald
or **The Bird City Times**
310 W. Washington
St. Francis
785-332-3162

\$15 Gift Certificate
for baby food or formula and New Born Diapers
Sainty's Super Food
120 E. Washington
St. Francis
785-332-2064

Parents Rules:

1. The parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
2. The St. Francis Herald office must be notified as quickly as possible, 785-332-3162.
3. A 60-day limit following the baby's birth is required for taking advantage of these outstanding gifts & services.

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