

**WOUNDED VETERANS ROLLED** into St. Francis riding bikes and trikes on Thursday evening. They were just in time for Flag Day ceremony at the Historical Society meeting held at the museum. Pictured is Heath Calhoun.

*Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick*

## Wounded veterans ride into St. Francis on Flag Day

**By Casey McCormick**

Warm weather brings bicyclists on cross country rides along U.S. 36. But a different band of riders came through Cheyenne County on a special quest.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday a group of veterans rode in from the west. What makes this trip unique is that several of the riders carry reminders of the current war in Iraq. They are amputees who are raising awareness and funds for The Wounded Warrior Project and their 4,200 mile ride is called Soldier Ride 2005.

The two month journey began on May 21 at Marina Del Ray's "Mother's Beach" in Los Angeles, Calif. The goal is to reach Montauk, N.Y. on July 19. The Soldier Ride 2005 hopes to raise \$5 million to aid wounded soldiers from Iraq, Afghanistan and other hot spots around the world. The veterans have raised \$151,469 so far.

One of the riders was Staff Sgt. (ret.) Heath Calhoun from Clarksville, Tenn. He lost both legs in a rocket attack in Mosul, Iraq on Nov. 7, 2003.

Sgt. Calhoun uses a hand cycle for the Soldier Ride. He is married with two children and another on the way.

Another veteran who drives a van for the team is Reggie Cornelia.

"When we were going over Monarch Pass (Colo.) you wouldn't believe how effortlessly Heath made it look," said Mr. Cornelia, "he hardly broke a sweat."

When the veterans arrived in St. Francis they stopped at the Dairy King and noticed the Flag Day ceremony at the Cheyenne County Museum across U.S. 36. Mr. Cornelia asked if they could join the festivities and the riders were greeted with a standing ovation.

Staff Sgt. (ret.) Ryan Kelly, Prescott, Ariz. was asked to give a few words on behalf of the group.

"We are doing this for the men

and women who are still over there," said Sgt. Kelly.

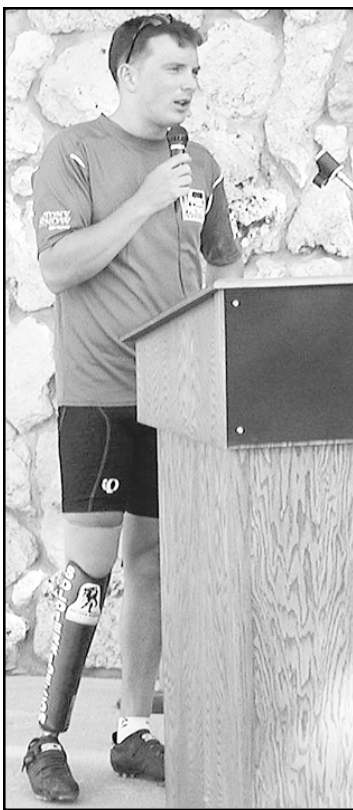
A bomb explosion on Highway 1, south of Baghdad, took Sgt. Kelly's right leg on July 14, 2003. He is also married but does not have any children.

Another veteran joining the group was Army Captain Lonnie Moore. A native of Kansas, Captain Moore lost his right leg in Iraq and is able to pedal his bicycle with only his left leg.

After the ceremony the veterans and their team were guests for a potluck meal featuring barbecue brisket by Chuck Kribs.

Individual riders are welcome to join the Soldier Ride 2005 and can select one of the 12 stages of the tour. The web site is [www.soldierride.com](http://www.soldierride.com). The site also offers a daily journal of the veteran's progress and nonriders can register as a virtual rider to support the project.

For more information on The Wounded Warrior Project, to



**REGGIE CORNELIA, one of the Soldier Ride 2005 members, spoke to the group at the Historical Society meeting.**

make a donation or sponsor a rider, go to the website or call toll-free, 1-866-RIDE 611.

## Girls vie for crown on Saturday



**By Karen Krien**

The Young Miss Program will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday in the auditorium at the St. Francis Community High School. A parade ending with a time for autographs will start at 2 p.m. at the high school and go down St. Francis' Main Street.

Ten girls are vying for the title of Cheyenne County Young Miss: Angela Van Allen, Sawyer White, Talisa Voorhies, Ashley Dowgwillo, Christi Milne, Jade DeGood, McKenzie Grace, Maddie Knodel, Kori Underwood and Sheryl Miller.

The Young Miss Program is a spin-off from the Junior Miss Program held in previous years. The categories have different names and some of the program will be differ-

ent but the main idea is to give these coming high school senior girls an opportunity to participate in such a program.

"These girls have been a really good bunch to work through all the transitions," said Vicki Cress, coordinator for the program. "They even wrote a letter and comprised a video which they sent to Oprah."

This year's theme is "Sports Jam." The girls will have spent the week practicing routines, their talent numbers and mock interviews. Mrs. Cress said the "Academics Division" which will count as 30 percent of total points, has already been judged by separate judges.

Other divisions are: Individual Interviews, 20 percent; Performing Arts, 10 percent; and Community Service, 10 percent. **See CROWN on Page 6A**

## Physician dies at the age of 81

Dr. Ernest Richard Cram died on Father's day, June 19, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. He was 81 years old.

Dr. Cram came to St. Francis in 1954. There were already five other family physicians practicing in Cheyenne County.

However, Dr. Cram said, "I think if I practice good medicine, we can live wherever we want to live and I want to live in St. Francis."

His philosophy as a doctor was summed up by a quote from his book that he wrote after his retirement in 1992, "I have always tried to serve as I would like to be served myself and have always been negative toward unnecessary doctoring."

Throughout his career, he delivered approximately 1,000 babies including his youngest children Ole and Adele as well as Adele's husband Darris and his first grandson, Julian Bunker on his own birthday, April 1.

Dr. Cram will probably be remembered mostly as a "good, ole, quiet-spoken doctor." However, there was another side of this man



**Dr. Cram**

which often surprised people. He was an actor — in some cases, such as in *Fiddler On The Roof*, he could almost be considered a "ham."

He enjoyed acting and, besides *Fiddler on the Roof*, he performed in *Hello Dolly*, *Music Man*, *Dust on the Sunflowers*, and *The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker*.

Dr. Cram and Bonnie presented a number of programs written by Bonnie. The two of them performed **See DOCTOR on Page 6A**

## Harvest delayed because of rain

There were farmers doing some test cutting on Monday but, according to Doug Ross, manager of Bartlett Grain, St. Francis, the wheat was still too wet.

It has been hot with Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, recording temperatures of 97 degrees. With the drying winds, farmers were looking at harvest toward the middle of the week.

However, Monday night, people

were shaken from their sleep by the loud claps of thunder and constant lightning. With all the noise, only .68 inch of rain fell along with a little hail.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
June 14	74	54	
June 15	92	54	
June 16	91	64	
June 17	89	64	
June 18	91	74	
June 20	97	79	.68

## Bids for fire trucks opened at meeting

**By Karen Krien**

Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, Hill City, was present for the opening of the bids for three new fire trucks. Four bids had been received and two of the companies had representatives present for the openings.

The bids were: Weise Fire, Salina,, \$263,205; Hays Fire Equipment, \$264,881; Danko, Snyder, Neb., \$278,505; and Watts Welding, Belleville, \$296,250. No decision was made as the bid packages needed to be inspected by the firemen to make sure all of the specifications

had been met.

Hays Fire Equipment had included a reduced rate if the trucks were paid for when they arrived but that had not been a bid specification and, the commissioners agreed that it was not fair to the other companies. Mrs. Griffey said that she was not sure what the grant regulations were.

Mrs. Griffey said the final inspection of the health department at the clinic had been completed and Community Development Building Grant was signed off.

**Fair board needs more funding**

**See FIRE TRUCKS on Page 6A**



**SAINTY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI and spouses, (l to r) Louanne and Glenn Isernhagen and Keith Dankenbring, enjoyed visiting before the banquet on Saturday night.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Board member takes stand on evolution teaching

**By Karen Krien**

Connie Morris, St. Francis resident and member of the Kansas State Board of Education, has been in the news for her views on teaching evolution in the Kansas schools.

In an article



**Morris**

which appeared in the June 14 *Salina Journal*, she called evolution an "age-old fairy tale." She went on to say that the fairy tale is sometimes defended with "anti-God" contempt and arrogance.

In a newsletter, Mrs. Morris criticized fellow board members, news organizations and scientists who defend evolution. She said the board's goal is to write the standards in such a way that clearly **See STAND on Page 6A**

## Morris defends the dollars spent

**By Karen Krien**

Earlier in the week, Connie Morris, Kansas State Board of Education member from St. Francis, was featured for her stand against the theory of evolution being taught in Kansas schools. However, on Friday, she was featured again in the *Salina Journal* for her spending of taxpayers' money while representing Kansas at a national school board conference held in Orlando, Fla.

Mrs. Morris' trip to Orlando cost

\$2,900. Her costs included staying in a luxury resort hotel for \$339 a night; \$150 on food including a \$50 meal; \$147 cab fare plus the airfare and mileage to the Denver airport.

The *Journal* said Mrs. Morris said the block of rooms reserved for the conference had sold out when she phoned in her reservation, even though she called several months in advance. She wanted a hotel within walking distance so she stayed where **See DOLLARS on Page 6A**



# FIRE TRUCKS

**Continued from Page 1A**  
Dick Bursch, fair board president, presented the fair board's budget. He said they were going to need more money because of the high cost of insurance which they had already paid. He said that the money taken during the fair had been down the past two years and he figured that was due to the economy. Clerk Terry Miller said he had talked to Roxie Neitzel about the insurance and the board could place an actual cash value on some of the buildings instead of a "replacement cost."

Mr. Bursch said the board had decided to cut down on advertisement and they were getting the fair book at a cheaper rate. Clerk Miller said the county has a web site, [www.cheyennecounty.org](http://www.cheyennecounty.org), which he could advertise the fair if Mr. Bursch would get him the information.

Mr. Bursch said the board had discussed other evening entertainment for following years including motocross competitions. Commissioner Andy Beikman said it too bad that some of the area fairs were being held at the same time as the Cheyenne County Fair and noted that this also holds true for demolition derbies. Mr. Bursch said they had held an early derby but only six cars showed up.

**Taxing severed mineral rights**  
Noel Rath, St. Francis, briefly asked the commissioners to consider taxing those holding severed mineral rights. Commissioner Brubaker said that the matter had been broached several years ago and the appraiser's office staff thought, because there had been so much time lapse between the time there had been taxes on mineral rights and today, that it would not be cost effective to update information. Mr. Rath said he didn't think it was right that the owner of mineral rights should get away without paying taxes.

Commissioner Beikman said he thought that, with the drilling of new wells, this would be a good time to incorporate the taxes.

The commissioners agreed that Randy Sangster, appraiser, should explain the reasons for not taxing these people.

**Development Corp's budget**  
Carol Redding, Cheyenne County Development Corporation coordinator, presented the Corporation's budget of \$9,800 for the upcoming year. She told about the leadership training through the 21st Century. Commissioner Brubaker was interested in forming a Cheyenne County Leadership Training again. Ms. Redding said that the 21st Century training class should give the leadership to form the class. Those taking the present class are Ms. Redding, Tom Keller, Cory Busse, Kathy Rainbolt, Shawna Blanka, Althea Lebow, Roger Jensen and Sherry Schultz.

She talked about the county's strategic plan, wondering who implemented some of the sections of the plan. For instance, who is the county-wide administrator.

"There are some very good objectives in here (Strategic Plan) and I would like to see some of these goals and objectives met," she said.

# DOLLARS

**Continued from Page 1A**  
the conference was being held, the Fountainbleau Hilton Resort. Mrs. Morris defended her trip by saying other board members travel and, as board members, "that's what we do."

Mrs. Morris, when called on Tuesday, said the Florida conference was approved unanimously by the board prior to her attendance.

"I attended every session and the knowledge gained there is important in my role on the state board," she said.

The topic was school choice but the conference was focusing on learning how Kansas could have magnet schools with an emphasis on agri-science. For instance, one of the schools she toured in Florida has an emphasis on tourism and the implications there are valuable for western Kansas and the economy.

"For instance, it could prepare students to go straight from high school into viable work or their career choice," she said. "Many western Kansas students don't want to go to college but their employment or business opportunities are limited in Western Kansas."

"I would like to see our high schools focus more on preparing students to stay in our hometowns instead of sending them off to college where, many times, they find themselves unsuccessful."

**Other board members**  
The Journal stated that out-of-state travel for board members is infrequent and that seven of the 10 board members had made no out-of-state traveling during the past year. Again, Mrs. Morris said the trip was ap-

proved by the board.

**Lawyers**  
Judge Robert Van Allen reported that there are five court-appointed attorneys which are rotated. He said he rotates the judges but also selects them on the case and how many miles it is for the attorney to travel.

"We can not force anyone to take a case," Judge Van Allen said. "We can appoint the lawyer but he can withdraw."

"I am concerned about the tax dollars that the court is spending but there is only so much we can do to collect money (from indigent cases)."

Attorney Barrett commented that the court cannot throw someone in jail for not having money. It was also pointed out that it costs money to keep a person in jail.

**Conservation District's budget**  
Spencer Schlepp, Lynn Query, Herman Antholz, Jeanne Dunn and Randy Rueb, all representing the Cheyenne County Conservation District, presented the District's budget. They were asking for \$14,863 in 2006. The District was allocated \$11,059 in county money in 2005.

There was considerable discussion about the services provided to the county including the sale of trees and drip systems. They noted that, in the past couple of years, they haven't made any money on the trees and drip systems probably because of the drought conditions.

If money is made, it is spent for educational purposes. They said the selling of the trees and drip systems is to make them affordable and encourage planting windbreaks.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• The wage agreement for Bob Juelson, deputy sheriff, was signed.  
• Deb Smith, appraiser staff, was approved to go to an advanced oil and gas workshop after she explained that there had been over 50 new gas wells and a couple of oil wells drilled in the county.  
• Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Fund for bridge projects over the next five years. He thought the commissioners would need to set aside \$44,500 per year.  
• Jerry Michaud, Bonnie Burr and Ruth Lang, all representing the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, presented their budget and asked that the county allot them the same amount as last year, \$7,840.  
• Commissioner Beikman reported that Cody Beeson had contacted him and was not going to pay his bill for getting rid of prairie dog. He didn't feel his prairie dog problem had been resolved.

**Other matters discussed**  
Other matters talked about in the commissioners' meeting included the commissioners not approving the drawing up of a resolution to allow the St. Francis zoning ordinance to reach past the city limits and the new emergency preparedness bioterrorism plan. See articles elsewhere in this issue.

**Journal** said Mrs. Morris claimed the board's second-most expensive trip in the past year. She traveled to Arlington, Va., for the National Youth Services Conferences. While records show that she ate mostly fast foods and stayed at a Quality Hotel for \$127 a night, her total expenses for five nights including airfare was \$1,441.

Over the last year, Ken Willard, who is on the group's board of directors had traveled to four meetings/conferences connected to the National Association of State Boards of Education. The four trips totaled \$2,150. It was also noted that the organization often paid for his airfare or lodging.

Bill Wagon, board member, also attended some meetings. One trip to Alexandria, Va., to a National Association of State Boards of Education meeting totaled \$692. Another trip to Salem, Mass., cost \$502.

# CROWN

**Continued from Page 1A**  
Arts, 20 percent; Endurance, 15 percent; Grace and Elegance, 15 percent.

Providing special entertainment will be Chelsey Weeden, the 2005 Cheyenne County Junior Miss.

While the judges are making their decisions, refreshment will be served. Following the announcement of the new Young Miss, the girls will go to the cafeteria where they will be accepting congratulations.



**KIDS AND ADULTS** including Dara Loyd and Elmer Kellner were painting the band shell railing. There were 75 hours donated to Join Hands Project on Thursday. Thirty-seven volunteers helped paint the railing on the band shell in Sawhill Park and the lines on the basketball court at the city park. They then went to the River Walk where they picked up trash and planted trees and shrubs. To conclude the evening, a picnic was held. Helping fund the event was Thriven Financial for Lutherans.

# DOCTOR

**Continued from Page 1A**

these programs in their hometown of St. Francis as well as surrounding communities. These programs included singing, telling family stories, and humorous dramas. They also per-

# STAND

**Continued from Page 1A**

gives educators the right and responsibility to present the criticism of Darwinism alongside the age-old fairy tale of evolution.

Mrs. Morris was one of three board members endorsing proposed science standards which would expose students to more criticism of evolution in the classrooms. In other words, they would tell that there are holes in the theory of evolution.

"At the four day hearings in May, there were scientists who presented evidence that evolution is genetically, biologically, mathematically, chemically and metaphysically impossible for the theory to be true," she said.

She also said that she doesn't want to bring the Bible into the classroom.

"We do not have to turn to the Bible, nor should we, nor could we turn to the Bible for scientific evidence," she said.

In the Journal article, it quoted Jack Krebs, vice president of Kansas Citizens for Science, an Oskaloosa educator, that "her (Morris) belief is in opposition to mainstream science. Mainstream science is a consensus view literally formed by tens of thousands people who literally studied these issues."

The methods of teaching evolution in school science classes has been changed by the Kansas board twice since 1999.

The three board members had the hearings during which witnesses criticized evolutionary theory that natural chemical processes may have created the first building blocks of life, that all life has descended from a common origin and that man and apes share a common ancestor. Evolution is attributed to 19th Century British scientist Charles Darwin.

Those organizing the case against evolution were intelligent design advocates. Intelligent design says some features of the natural world are so complex and well-ordered that they are best explained by an intelligent cause.

Mrs. Morris and the other two board members took no position on intelligent design but it appeared that their work followed suggestions that they were intelligent design advocates.

Mrs. Morris stated that she was not an "intelligent design advocate."

"There are credible scientists who can produce evidence against the teachings of the theory of evolution and students need to know the criticisms of evolution," she said.

In Mrs. Morris' newsletter, she claims to be a Christian who believes the account of the Bible creation. She also recognizes that many other Christians have no trouble reconciling faith and evolution.

When national and state science groups boycotted the May hearing, Mrs. Morris said, "They desperately need to withhold the fact that evolution is a theory in crisis and has been crumbling apart for years."

Mrs. Morris, on Tuesday, told the Herald that she felt the media had taken her comments out of text and she and her husband have received threats and hate mail since the hearings. However, she feels that speaking out on this issue is important.

formed violin and voice duets.

Dr. Cram was a private pilot with a single engine airplane, commercial and instrument ratings. He logged 3,341 hours and own a Beechcraft Sierra. He was active in the Civil Air Patrol as a captain and as a medical officer.

"Doc" and wife Bonnie loved flying their airplane, "Love Baby." One of their trips included flying to the Caribbean Islands with 31 other doctors. They were the only ones flying a single engine plane. The journey from St. Francis to St. Thomas of the Caribbean Islands was 50 hours of flying time, round trip.

When he felt that he could no longer fly, he and Bonnie were found golfing at Riverside Recreation. He also liked reading, playing his violin, singing, dramatic and comedic acting, writing and genealogy.

He was a patron of the arts.

As a young violinist, Dr. Cram played in the University of Kansas Orchestra and later in Pride of the Prairie Orchestra where he rehearsed weekly in Colby.

Dr. Cram graduated from St. Francis High School, then went on to attend Kansas State University from 1942-1943. At the University of New Mexico in 1943, Dr. Cram earned a pre-meteorology certificate.

He took time out of his studies to marry Bonnie Jean Waters on

Aug. 29, 1948.

He went on to study at the University of Kansas, earning a bachelor's in pre-medicine in 1949, then a doctor of medicine degree in 1952. He wasn't done with his schooling as he earned a master's degree in meteorology from the California Institute of Technology in 1952.

In 1952-53, Dr. Cram was at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Denver, where he did his medical rotating internship as an Air Force Lieutenant.

His service in the armed forces included Meteorologist and Lieutenant, Army Air Corps Reserves. After finishing medical school, he re-enlisted as a Physician, Lieutenant, Air Force Reserves, Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee Falls, Mass.

He wrote his own autobiography entitled "Sainty's Dick Cram" in 1994 during his retirement. A copy of the book may be found in the St. Francis Public Library and the Cheyenne County Museum.

Dr. Cram received the award of Eagle Scout in 1942. The Coronado Area Council awarded Dr. Cram the Silver Beaver certificate in 1965 and the Wood Badge certificate in 1967.

The Crams have five children: Richard, Ione Slattery, Claudia Bunker, Ole, and Adele DeGood. There was a 20-year span between their oldest and youngest child.

# Board vetoes signing

The county commissioners agreed at their Wednesday meeting that they were not in favor of signing a resolution so the St. Francis City Council members could extend their zoning laws to reach residents who were not cleaning up their property. The matter was briefly discussed at the May 31 meeting and the commissioners asked Justin Barrett, county attorney, to looking into the matter.

Attorney Barrett, at the Wednesday meeting, said he had a letter from city attorney, Mike Day regarding extending the zoning. The letter stated that the city council could go 3 miles from the city limits but Attorney Day didn't think that the city would want to go that far.

The city council cannot go outside the city limits to make people clean up their yards and businesses. There are certain businesses which are on U.S. 36 and appear to be in the city limits that are not. Because of the many items stacked and laying around these businesses, they are not making a good first appearance as travelers drive through.

At the last commissioners' meeting, there was also discussion that an official with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had been in St. Francis after a letter had been received from a St. Francis resident. However, the identity of the letter writer was not revealed to the press nor the commissioners. It had named 10 residences/businesses around St. Francis which could be considered a nuisance or health hazard.

At the end of the commissioners' discussion on the matter, Jane Brubaker, commissioner, said she thought the city was just wanting to throw "it all" on the commissioners. Andy Beikman, commissioner, didn't like the idea of narrowing out just one person (or a few). "I don't want to get into the city's laws and cleaning up other people's junk and animals," Beikman said.

"They (city council) are going to have to convince me that this is something that is good for the whole county," Commissioner Brubaker said. "It would be easier for the city to rezone the city limits. There are more reasons to have these regulations within the city."

St. Francis Mayor Scott Schultz said he will come to the June 30 commissioners' meeting to further discuss the matter.

## Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Casey McCormick at:



**The Saint Francis Herald**  
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

## Coming Soon

# Freedom

Special Section

Featuring those who have served  
our country and a Salute  
to the United States Freedom!



## NEW ... This July!

# Special Farm Section

Featuring the Trends in Agriculture.  
This insert will reach over 10,000  
households.  
Reserve your advertising space soon!



Tri-State Area  
Antique Engine  
& Thresher Show

Tri-State Antique Auto Display,  
Swap Meet and Flea Market  
Bird City, Kansas

**Coming in July**

