



**WORKMEN BEGAN JACKHAMMERING** the concrete around the joints of the bridge west of St. Francis on Tuesday. **Travelers were slowed down when they wait for the stop light as only one-lane traffic is allowed.** *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Repairs begin on west bridge

**By Karen Krien**  
Anyone traveling west out of St. Francis or east into St. Francis on U.S. 36 will need to allow for a wait at the bridge. Eric Oelschlager, area engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, reported Tuesday that the expansion joints are being replaced on the bridge. The two joints on the bridge allow movement and the rubber on the joints is wearing out. It will be necessary to remove a 2-foot section, one from each side of the joint, with a jackhammer. Reece Construction crew out of Salina, is removing the concrete and will be pouring new concrete on Friday or Monday. After that, there will be at

least a two-week curing time before the traffic can be switched to the other lane. During that time, there will be one-way traffic directed with a stop light on either side of the bridge. Mr. Oelschlager estimated that the construction will take at least four to five weeks.



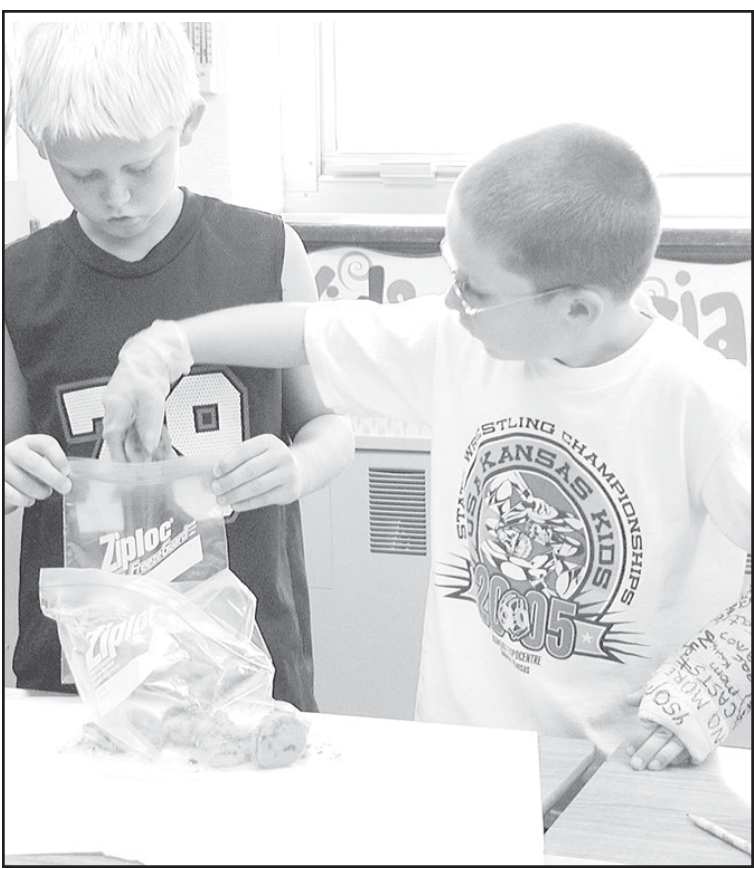
# City council sets Fall Cleanup for October

**By Sandy Barnhart**  
At the St. Francis City Council meeting on Sept. 6, plans for the Fall Cleanup and properties needing cleaned up were discussed. The clean up is tentatively set for October. Besides the usual clean up, residents are urged to control their weeds, especially stickers on their property as well as in the alleys adjoining their property. City clean up is a service which gives residents the opportunity to get rid of yard waste and debris and unwanted household items. The service is not for contractors and should not be abused. Unfortunately, the service has been abused in the past. The possibility of not having a Spring Cleanup was again brought up with the matter being tabled until after the Fall Cleanup is held. The council discussed the different property which the city crew ended up cleaning. It should be noted that the city charges \$20 an hour and a fee on the equipment which is used to assist them. The owners will be billed. Superintendent J.R. Landenberger discussed several drain issues around town including the following areas: Park Hill, Parkway Drive, Parkway Alley, Walter Hilt's alley, Cherry Street and the water which runs off the highway from the state down Denison Street. No decision was made.

**KAN STEP**  
The council adopted the agreement between the city of St. Francis and architect's, BG Consultants, Inc. of Manhattan, upon approval of the grant. Previously at a special public hearing and meeting held Aug. 26 for the KAN STEP See **CLEANUP on Page 9A**

# Sainty families offer shelter

**By Karen Krien**  
Two families, Crissy and Terrance Cooks and Dr. Tim and Margaret Poling are offering to give evacuees of Hurricane Katrina a place to live. The Cooks, who own the Empire Motel on U.S. 36, St. Francis, are offering to give four motel rooms and the Polings are opening their home. "We felt that since we couldn't go down and help (the victims), that we have a house with lots of bedrooms," Mrs. Poling said. "We have fun and do things and we would be able to give children (of these evacuees) opportunities to live in our town, our home. "We always have room for more." They had talked to Connie Morris, St. Francis resident and member of the Kansas State Board of Education, who began registering the Cooks and Polings as having lodging with numerous organizations, church organizations, Red Cross, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), just to name some. The evacuees will be given 18 months of government support funds. Mrs. Morris said she is hoping to bring in families of school-age See **SHELTER on Page 9A**



**FILLING BAGS FOR THE SALE — Andre` Merchant and Lane Hoffman** were putting cookies in bags.

# Students conduct sale for evacuees

**By Karen Krien**  
The St. Francis fourth grade students of Becky McAtee had been watching the terrible events of Hurricane Katrina on television and, then their *Times For Kids* magazine featured the devastation of the hurricane. "We had talked about the hurricane from the time that it happened but the TFK (Times for Kids) really brought it to the attention of the students," Mrs. McAtee said. While discussing what they could do for these people, the students came up with the idea of a bake sale to raise money. The money would be given to Red Cross. Some of the students had talked about a woman they had seen on television who had opened her home See **SALE on Page 9A**

# Enrollment figures down; more numbers than expected

**By Karen Krien**  
The enrollment at the St. Francis schools was down but not as much as previously expected. Carl Werner, superintendent, announced at the Sept. 8 school board meeting that, with the number of a student attending school that day, the enrollment at the St. Francis schools was 320 students. Compared to last year on the official enrollment date (Sept. 20), there were 14 less students. There is still a week

before the official enrollment count and more students could arrive but they are not expected. The largest class in the grade school is the fifth grade with 26 students. There are a total of 145 elementary students. In the junior-senior high school, the largest class is the freshman class with 36 students. There are 175 students in the junior-senior high school. There are 33 seniors and only 19 kindergarten students.

**Insurance rates go down**  
When everything else seems to be going up, the board was informed that the Blue Cross-Blue Shield premium rates for the health-insurance group would be going down. The new plan will be effective on Nov. 1 and those in the group will find savings from \$22 per month to \$80 per month, depending on the type of plan. The board and administration See **NUMBERS on Page 9A**

# Beecher Island Reunion takes place this weekend

**By Karen Krien**  
For 106 years, people have been coming to Beecher Island for the annual celebration of the Sept. 17-18, 1868, Battle of Beecher Island. This year the dates are the same as they were in 1868 — Sept. 17 and 18. The Beecher Island Reunion is held at Beecher Island located 18 miles west of St. Francis on U.S. 36 and then turn north. (Watch for the directions.) "The fun gets started on Saturday and lasts all weekend," said Mark Mahlberg, president of the Beecher Island Board of Directors. Breakfast will be served by the Idalia Family Community Education Bicentennial Club starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday. The Idalia Lions Club members start Sunday off with a pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. The Black Powder Shoot, sponsored by the Idalia Gun Club will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday. It will last throughout the morning and people are urged to come watch the fine shooting and enjoy the costumes. Other Saturday activities include the Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull which will start at 10 a.m. and kids of all ages are welcome. The event is brought to the reunion by the Colorado Pedal Pushers. Top pullers will win ribbons and the opportunity to go on to the state competition.

The Wray Lions Club will be cooking and serving food all day. At 1 p.m., the games and races begin. "There will be categories for those under 5 years of age to where it's not nice to ask!" Mr. Mahlberg said. Some of the favorite games and races are the three-legged race, sack races and many more. Cash prizes will be awarded for each event. The turtle races follow. Kids need to bring their turtle early and have it registered. See **BEECHER on Page 9A**



# Funds being raised for new monument

About 100 years ago, an 18-foot obelisk monument was purchased to mark Beecher Island and the battle between Indians and soldiers that took place in 1868. It stood majestically until 1935 when the Arikaree River flooded. Following the flood, the monument was found but the top was broken. The Beecher Island residents moved it to higher ground and then built a top with wood, plaster and paint but, today, it has deteriorated. Mark Mahlberg, president of the Beecher Island Board of Directors, said the board will begin raising money to purchase a new monument and hope to have it See **FUNDS on Page 9A**

# Singers to entertain

A spirited, talented singing group will entertain at the Beecher Island Reunion at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening in the auditorium. "Quik as a Wink," will be featur-

ing vocalist Chris Gudgel on the bass. Fiddler and vocalist is Charity Fay. They will be joined by Tonya Luther's vocals and See **SINGERS on Page 9A**

**September is Preparedness Month**  
In light of the recent devastation in the south, emergency preparedness becomes even more critical. Urging all Kansans to be prepared in the event of an emergency, Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation declaring September as "Kansas Preparedness Month." "The recent events surrounding Hurricane Katrina solemnly remind us how important it is to be prepared for emergencies," said Gov. Sebelius. "Here in Kansas, tornadoes, floods, grass fires and other disasters have been a part of our lives since our first days as a territory. "Through the simple act of assembling a home emergency kit, each one of us can make ourselves better prepared to face disaster, should it come our way." Gary Rogers, Cheyenne/Rawlins counties emergency preparedness manager, said that Cheyenne County did not send teams of fire fighters, emergency medical technicians or law enforcements to the hurricane disaster area because there are only enough to serve the county if there would be an emergency here. Most of the people volunteering to serve the disaster area were from areas where there were ample people on staff. Many people don't realize the importance of having emergency managers and the training of individuals until there is an emergency on hand. Then it is too late. Throughout the month of September, communities, businesses, families and individuals are urged to make, review and practice their emergency plans and check emergency supplies to be better prepared for natural disasters and other emergencies.



## CLEANUP

**Continued from Page 1A**  
grant application, Michelle Kippes, Economic Development Coordinator, was present to answer any questions.

The council passed three resolutions and directed Mayor Scott Schultz to sign them. Among the resolutions were: 2005-6 which certifies legal authority to apply for the Kansas Small City Community Development Block grant; 2005-7: assures the Kansas Department of Commerce that the funds will be continued and provided for the operation and maintenance of the construction of the building for the St. Francis fire house and emergency medical technician's building, which is to be financed by the Community Development Block Grant funds; and 2005-8: City of St. Francis agrees to replace all dwellings or units demolished as a direct result of the activities of the fire house and emergency medical building.

All three resolutions are mandatory procedures of the KAN STEP grant process.

### Liquor sales

The council tabled the matter of opening Sundays for sales of 3.2 cereal malt beverages. Attorney Mike Day explained that, at the present time, cereal malt beverages are offered for sale Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m.-11 p.m., and are prohibited being sold on Memorial, Independence, Labor, Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

By passing the ordinance, the city of St. Francis would be open to sales

of cereal malt beverages on Sundays from noon until 8 p.m., except for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If the council chooses to pass the ordinance, there would be a 60-day waiting period for protests to be filed. Clerk Lampe noted that there has been a verbal request but, as of yet, there had been no written request asking for the ordinance to be passed.

### Land sale

The council approved to sell three acres or Lot 2 of the Industrial tract (located behind the Farm Service Agency office) for \$3,600. The decision was made after an individual approached the council interested in purchasing the ground. The ground will be the foundation of a new business which will employ several employees.

### Superintendent report

In the superintendent report:  
Tires - The council approved the purchase of four tires for the CAT loader for \$1,864.

Engine - The 10-cylinder engine located at the power plant is schedule for inspection within the next couple of weeks.

- Superintendent Landenberger inform the council that the insurance company has paid \$1,100 towards the boiler at the swimming pool.

- The council approved \$39.36 per ton of hot mix, which will be used for patching potholes around town.

### Police report

Chief of police Troy Gardner told the council that they would be in-

volved in a training session with the Northwest Kansas Shelter.

Sara Smith, dispatcher, has successfully written a grant for the police department from the United State Department of Justice. The grant will pay 50 percent for six bullet-proofed vests. Chief Gardner was unsure as to the amount of vests they would purchase.

### Other business

In other business:

- The council approved for Clerk Lampe to purchase a digital camera, not to exceed \$350, to be used for the city's web-page.

- The council appointed Superintendent Landenberger as voting delegate for the League of Kansas Municipalities.

- The council approved for the city cemetery to be allowed to hook onto city water at the Kenny Richers home. It will then be up to the cemetery board and Mr. Richers to work out an agreement as to the usage of water and cost.

### Building permits

The council approved building permits for Gudrun Schoenrogge, pour concrete; Betty Lester, erect fence; Don Younkin, pour concrete; Wade Hardwick, erect carport; Eric Fiala, put roof on deck.

### Executive session

Superintendent Landenberger requested 5 minutes in executive session to discuss legal matters. No action was taken.

## SHELTER

**Continued from Page 1A**

children. The legislature has indicated that if a significant number of evacuated children come in after the official school enrollment count on Sept. 20, there will be flexibility in including the children in that count (thus receiving additional state money for each student).

However, she noted that the number to be "significant" has yet to be determined.

"There are many issues to be considered. We are asking if there are any other living facilities that people would like to make available," Mrs. Morris said.

She said that semi-permanent housing is preferable.

"The screening process for placement of these families has been nearly non-existent. There are risks and commitments that we all need to consider as families and a community,"

she said.

If anyone has school supplies, clothing, non-perishable food items to donate, they can be taken to the Cooks at the Empire Motel where Mrs. Cooks is collecting them. Any supplies and monetary donations will be forwarded to the Red Cross if no families come to St. Francis.

"If we receive families, their individual needs will be addressed at the time of their arrival," Mrs. Morris said.

"I am hopeful that we will get a family but most of the families are preferring to stay within 200 miles of the Gulf.

In the meantime, Mrs. Morris said she is researching the matter and helping as much as she can.

For additional information or to offer a place for a family to live, contact Mrs. Morris at 785-332-2424 or talk to the Cooks or Polings.

## BEECHER

**Continued from Page 1A**

Throughout the day, the Swinging Seniors will be playing all the favorite old-time tunes.

At 7 p.m., a live music show featuring "Quik As A Wink" will take place inside the Beecher Island Auditorium. The program will feature old-time western music.

"This is an outstanding band from Ainsworth, Neb., and they will be singing songs of the old west in the finest cowboy tradition," Mr. Mahlberg said.

### Sunday

Starting off the day with a good breakfast prepared by the Idalia Lions Club, there will be a flag raising ceremony (9:45 a.m.) hosted by the area Boy Scouts. Sunday church service follows at 10. Music will be by Mike and Lorraine McCullough. The speaker will be Bryan Kroeger.

Lunch will be served by the Wray Lions.

At 1 p.m., the after program begins. Singing gospel music under the direction of Willie Sharp will be "The Group."

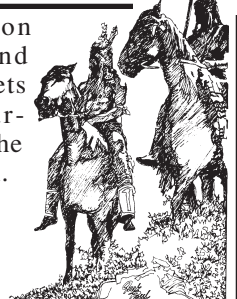
The next generation of local talent will take the stage when

Sara Drohan, music director for the Idalia Elementary School, has her students sing the traditional song "Arikaree."

A history presentation will be given by Scott Chartier.

Throughout the weekend, the Beecher Island Helping Hand Club will have their quilt and

baskets on display and raffle tickets can be purchased at the old church.



### FUNDS

**Continued from Page 1A**

erected in time for the reunion next year. The cost of the monument will be \$16,500.

The board will be counting on donations and possibly a grant to make the purchase.

The board is also seeking stories from those who have lived there, spent holidays, reunions or have just come to Beecher Island for a picnic.

### SINGERS

Mr. Gudgel is a young cowboy singer from the Sandhills of Nebraska. He has old-time cowboy songs which he has recorded.

"We are looking for a good time and, everyone who has attended the entertainment in the auditorium before, you will be glad to know that we now have new, comfortable seating," Mr. Mahlberg said.

## NUMBERS

**Continued from Page 1A**

talked about increasing what the school pays toward the premiums by about the same amounts as in the past in order to retain those employees already in the group and perhaps attract others to join the group.

Superintendent Werner said the information will be distributed to the eligible employees for their input and the matter will be scheduled for final approval at the October board meeting.

### Playground improvement bids

Three bids were received for removing the old asphalt and running new concrete on the playground area north of the elementary school. Bids were received from Troy Porter Landscaping, St. Francis, \$22,100; Krutsinger Construction, Benkelman, \$36,612; and Bud Stupka, Colby, for \$32,575.

After reviewing the bids and discussion, the board agreed to accept the Troy Porter Landscaping bid.

The work on the project is expected to being soon with the scheduled completion date of Oct. 22.

### Wellness policy

By July 1, 2006, all schools will be required to have a "wellness policy" in place. Rob Schiltz, assistant superintendent, told about some of the preliminary information. The first step is the formation of a local Wellness Committee, some of whom will attend a day of training in Colby on Sept. 28. Sherry Weeks, board member, was selected to serve on the committee.

### Special ed students

Mrs. Weeks is also the school's representative on the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center board in Oakley. She had attended the last meeting which dealt with special education students. These students are supposed to score proficient or above on the Kansas Assessments. It is the Center's responsibility in helping schools to attain that goal.

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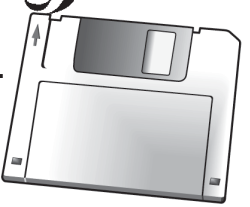
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**2001 Ford F250**, white, 53,875 miles, 4 WD, ext. cab, short box, super duty, 5.4 V8, CD

**2003 Dodge Ram 1500**, white, 37,178 miles, SLT Hemi, tilt, CC, PW, PDL, CD

**2002 GMC K-2500**, white, 59,581 miles, ext. cab, long box, SLE, 6.0, CC, PW, PDL, CD

**2004 Chevy Avalanche**, pewter, 14,923 miles, PW, PDL, CD, 2500

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