

Cheyenne

From modern golf first county in Kansas

By Karen Krien
Saint Francis Herald

St. Francis is the first town in Kansas on U.S. 36 when travelers come from the eastern plains of Colorado. There are three communities in Cheyenne County: St. Francis, Bird City and Wheeler.

Wheeler is tiny but it has the shortest highway in Kansas. Located at the junction of K-27 and U.S. 36, K-217 going north is 1 mile long, ending at the railroad tracks.

Cheyenne County is often referred to as "the land of open spaces and friendly faces."

Those faces are often found at Riverside Recreation's golf course, along the river bottom at the junction of U.S. 36 and north K-27. The nine-hole course has irrigated bluegrass fairways and well-manicured greens.

Non-member green fees per day are \$20 for 18 holes and \$12 for nine holes.

The club house is open weekdays at 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. The restaurant is open on Saturdays from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

A social membership of \$20 is necessary for families to fish in the pond (adults must have a Kansas fishing license). Summer evenings often find people enjoying a picnic and a quiet place to throw out a line.

About a dozen tournaments are held during the season, mostly 3-man scrambles. For information about tournaments and other activities at Riverside Recreation, call Roger Lauer at 785-332-2735 or Richard Grace, 785-332-2251.

Arikaree Breaks

The county may easily have more variation in the terrain than any other county in the state. The Republican River flows through the northwest corner.

Further to the east is rough terrain often referred to as "The Mini Grand Canyon." There are acres of flat fertile wheat ground and pastures throughout the rest of the county.

Located about 10 miles north of St. Francis, The Breaks has rough terrain with deep ravines and gullies. After miles of farm and pasture land, it is amazing to drive around a curve and behold this huge gully.

The Breaks are 36 miles long and about 2 to 3 miles wide. There are well-maintained public roads and places to pull over to view the amazing scenery.

Museum

The Cheyenne County Museum immortalizes those who tilled the soil, made sacrifices and endured drought and years of seeing their crop harvested by a hail storm.

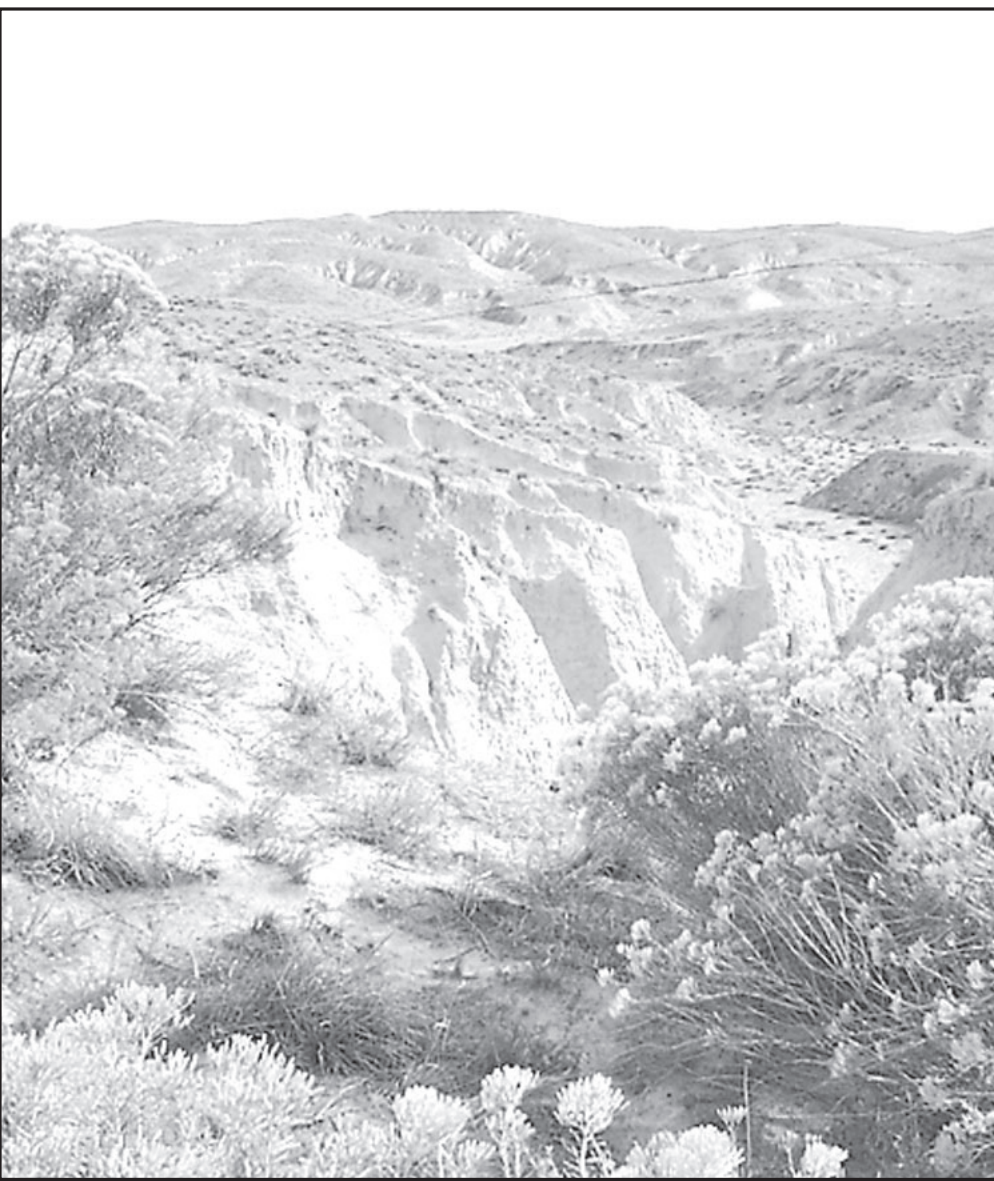
Tri-State Engine and Thresher Show

The last weekend in July marks the beginning of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City. People come from all over the U.S. to see these huge steam engines in action as races are held, wheat is thrashed and parades around the grounds are held daily. The Tri-State Antique Auto Club has an outstanding display of vehicles and, for those looking for old tractor/vehicle parts, hats, antiques or books, there is the Swap Meet and Flea Market.

The Thresher show grounds takes the people back to the days of long ago when cows were milked, butter was churned and fields were farmed with horse-drawn machinery.


Each day there are demonstrations and exhibits, lines of antique engines are on display and the sod house, old church and school house are open to the public.

There is a small admission to enter the




The Arikaree Breaks are located north of St. Francis following Road 14 out of St. Francis, then moving to Road 15. Often referred to as the 'Mini Grand Canyon,' the view is spectacular and well worth the 10 mile drive.

Cooks Empire Motel
Terrance & Crissy Cooks
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Open 7 Days a Week • 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
785-332-2277 ~ Hwy. 36 & Benton Street ~ St. Francis, KS

Hometown Market
"The Only Bird City In American"
Monday - Saturday • 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
785-734-2050 ~ 112 W. Bressler ~ Bird City, KS





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St. Francis Chamber of Commerce
785-332-2961 Email: coc@cityofstfrancis.net