

City gives fair board electricity

By Sandy Barnhart

The St. Francis City Council meeting held Jan. 16 found members granting the fair board free electricity for the billing cycle July 15 through Aug. 15. The decision to provide electricity at the city's cost for the remaining months was tabled.

For the year 2006, the fair board had spent \$2,131 for electricity and for the billing cycle of July 15 through Aug. 15 the fair had used \$728 in electricity.

Dick Bursch and Jared Douthit, Cheyenne County Fair Board members, were present to make the request and ask that, for

2007, the fair board be charged electricity at the city's cost. They pointed out that the city had given the Amusement Authority free electricity since the group had formed.

Councilman Rodney Bracelin felt that it was not fair for the city's residents to subsidize for the county-wide fair, and that it

should be a more joint effort between the three entities (cities of St. Francis and Bird City, and the county).

Mr. Bursch agreed and explained that in four years, the board's insurance has gone from \$1,500 to \$5,300. There were also buildings needing repair work and there is

not enough of the county's allocation to the fair board to cover the costs.

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger was not present at the meeting. The council wanted to discuss the matter of charging the city's cost of electricity for the remaining months with him so the matter was tabled.

Another weekend of more snowfall

By Karen Krien

It snowed again! Cheyenne County residents have seen nine days of snow since Dec. 19 and 21 days below freezing. The lows have also been numerous with Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, showing five days at below zero.

The weekend snow of 6 inches just piled up on the snow which has accumulated over the last five weeks. There were 20 to 30 mile per hour winds which blew the white, fluffy stuff onto the roads, filling up paths that the county crew made earlier and leaving the highways snowpacked and slick.

The schools were closed, parts of U.S. 36 and I-70 were closed and some of the church services, athletic events and other activities were canceled.

Everything is white. There are white yards, white roads and mountains of white snow which has been piled up in church and school yards. There are a few kids out building snowmen, sledding, building forts or playing on the snow piles but they have to be tough because the temperatures are so cold.

The sun came out Monday but the temperature only reached 29 degrees. The city crew had cleared Main Street and the sun rays melted the snow in a few places but by the time the sun went down, those areas were icy.

However, a change came on Tuesday when the high temperature was in the 40s — a heatwave! The forecasters are predicting 40s until Friday.

At those temperatures, maybe the side streets will begin to melt the snow and ice which, after weeks of layering and a little bit of thawing have become inches of dangerously slick, rutted trails between the piles of snow down the middle.

The city employees have been working after hours when Main Street is clear of traffic in an effort to get rid of as much snow as possible. Mary Lampe, city clerk, said she did not know how many man hours have been put into clearing the snow but, when the first snow fell at



DELIVERING MEALS — High school students, Megan Rice, front, and Alecia Zimbelman, back, are delivering meals for the senior center and will be until the ice melts. Also pictured are Chuck Petitjean and Bernice Bandel. First National Bank employees have volunteers to help drive.

the end of December to the first part of January, there had been 22 overtime hours and 2,800 pounds of salt had been used. Unfortunately, there had been no money for excessive snowfall removal budgeted.

"I guess we hadn't needed it for several years," she said.

County crew

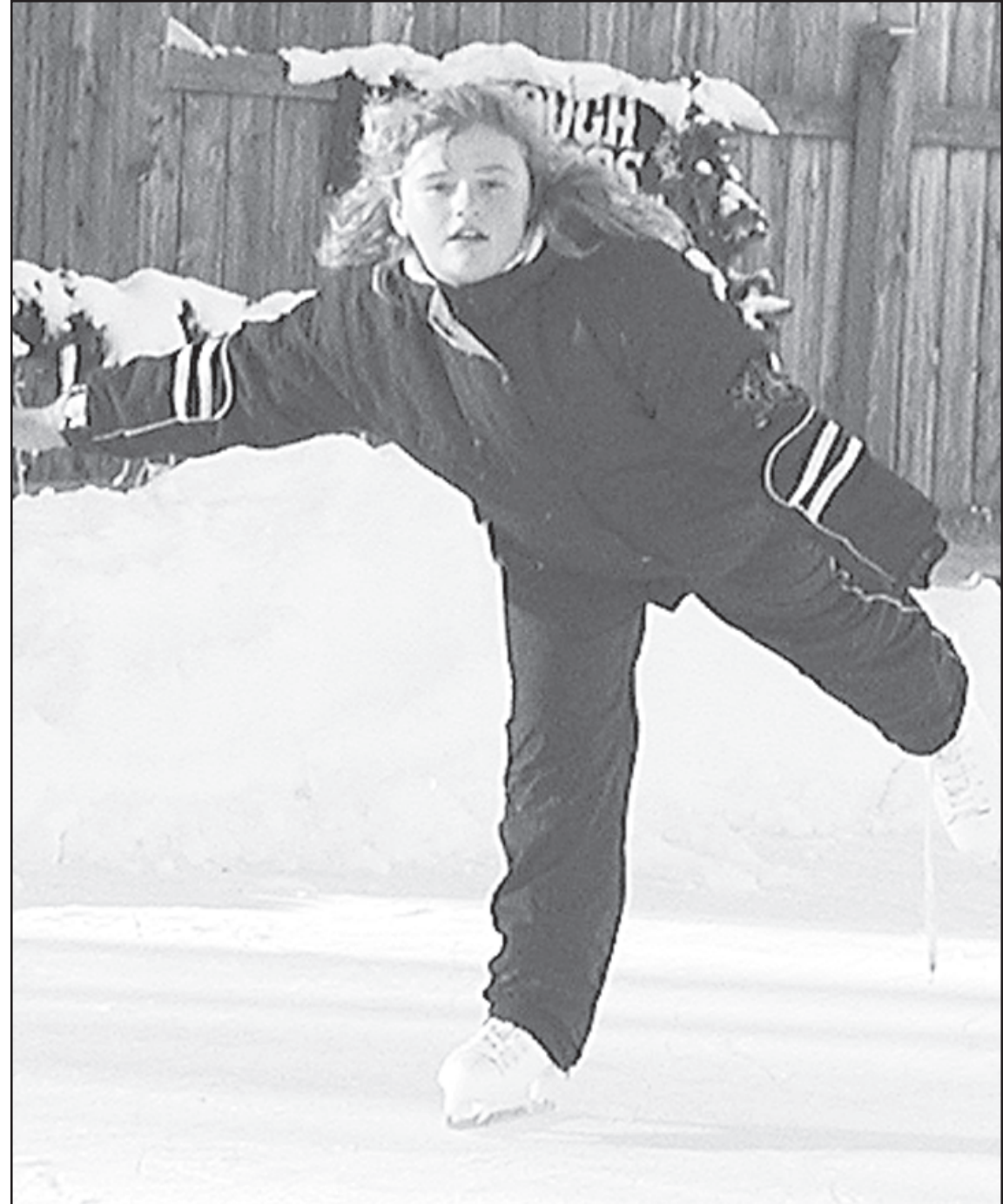
The county road and bridge crew worked through the New Year's holiday getting roads open and they have continued to break through the

drifts week after week, trying to keep the roads passable.

From just Dec. 31 to Jan. 8, the blizzard had cost the county \$8,607 in wages; \$14,518 for equipment/expenses. Since the first snow storm, there has been another four weeks of snowfall.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said there are a lot of hidden costs besides higher fuel costs and man hours.

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ICESKATING at the Jenkin's rink brings in many people. Monday afternoon, Katie McDanel and others were enjoying the ice.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Agronomist doesn't foresee problem with snow on wheat

By Jeanne Falk
K-State Agronomist

First and foremost, this snow is important source of moisture that the wheat needed. When was the last time we had this kind of moisture during December and January?

When all of this snow melts, the

moisture conditions will be excellent, giving us a good springboard for this upcoming season.

One concern that I have been hearing is wheat suffocation with the amounts of snow and ice.

In reality, this should only be a slight concern. First of all, the wheat went into the winter in pretty good

shape, with the rains last fall. Also, the wheat was not actively growing leaps and bounds when the snow and ice hit.

If the wheat had been really growing and was then coated with ice and snow, the plant's respiration would have been

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Leave water running

By Karen Krien

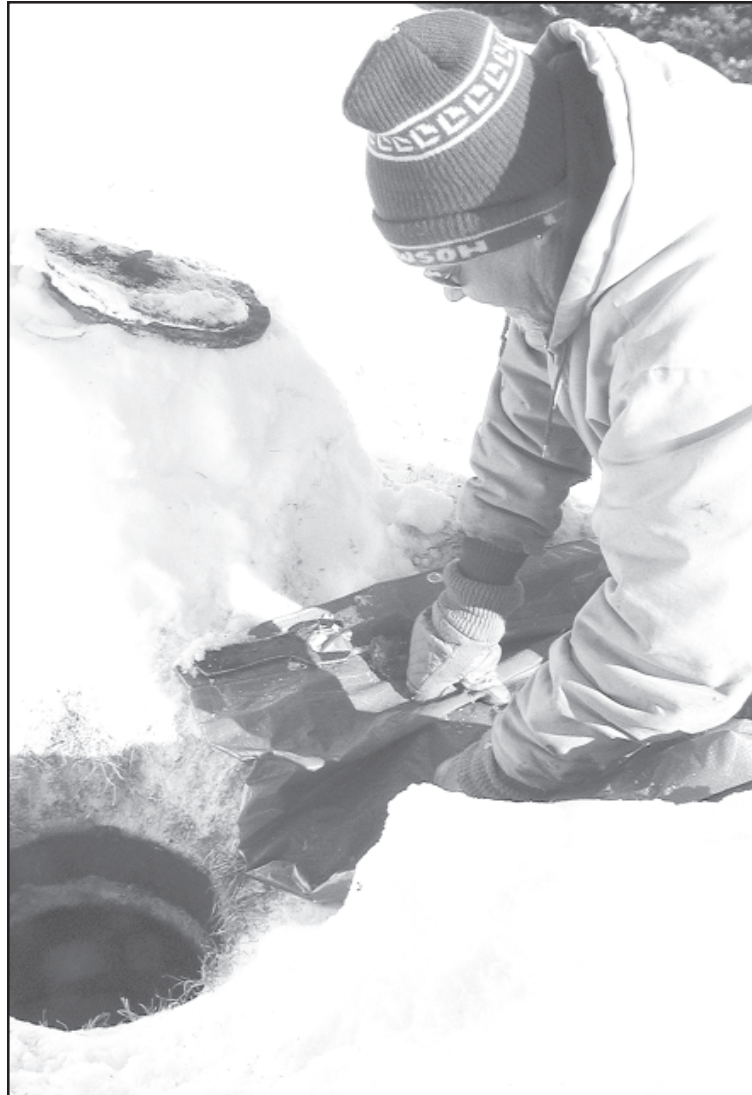
The temperatures are cold, the snow continues to accumulate and the city service lines are freezing up. To keep the lines and water mains from breaking, residents are asked to leave their water dripping or running slowly.

"The temperatures may warm up during the day but people still need to leave their water running at night," said Dan Blair, city employee.

"The frost penetrates deeper as the temperatures warm up and, until there are at least four or five days of warmer temperatures, please leave your water running at night," said John Larson, city employee.

During the weekend and the first of the week, the city crew had to fix one city main on College Street and numerous service lines which have frozen and broken. People may have their meters insulated but the line can still freeze.

Letting the water run (it can be cold water) will save the city time and expense but will also keep the people living in the house from having to do without water until the problem is fixed.



JOHN LARSON, city employee, was repairing a service line near River Street Monday morning. They had repaired a number of lines and a water main because freezing had broken them.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

City hall building remodeling starts

By Sandy Barnhart

The St. Francis City Council will put the police department remodeling on hold for the time being but work has begun on the council meeting room in the city hall. The council looked at what had been done when they met on Jan. 16.

At the Jan. 2 council meeting, bids were opened for the remodeling of the back room of the city hall building. Only one bid was submitted from Penn Building Service, St. Francis, for \$36,953. The council

had accepted the bid.

Last year Dan Penn, owner, had submitted a bid for \$47,000 for the completion of the back room. At that time the council felt there was not adequate funds to complete the entire room.

The new bid includes hallways, a storage room, along with the board room. The ceilings will be lowered with new lighting, a new heating/air-conditioning system, as well as new floors will be installed. Part of

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Election ballots filled for general

By Karen Krien

The deadline for filing for one of the seats on Bird City or St. Francis city councils, St. Francis mayor and Cheylin or St. Francis school boards was noon on Tuesday, Jan. 23. All positions up for election now has someone running.

Terry Miller, county election officer, reported that those filings came in slowly but when the deadline arrived, all positions had some-

one listed on the ballot and, in Bird City on the Cheylin School Board, two people, Dale Hazuka and Belinda Serrano, have filed for District 2, position 4. Since there are only two, there will be no need for a primary election. The general election will be held April 1.

Others filing for the Cheylin School Board are incumbent David Frisbie, District 1, position 5; Lori

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Monday marks Kansas Day

The Kansas Day celebration held in Bird City each year will be held on Jan. 29 with a guest speaker talking about the "Orphan Trains in Kansas." The day will begin at 9 a.m. and the program will start at 12:30 p.m.



Holt

Marilyn J. Holt, Abilene, works as a historical and editorial consultant. She has written books on the orphan trains, on rural women, Kansas teenagers, Indian orphanages and on children in the American west.

Ms. Holt earned her master's in history from the University of Illinois, in Springfield. Her research interests and publica-

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