

# BALLOTS

Continued from Page 1A  
Janicke, District 2, position 2. Those not running again are Kerby Krien and Wade Carmichael.

## St. Francis Board of Education

There are four positions up for election on the St. Francis Board of Education. They are presently filled by Cliff Raile, John Knodel, Bonnie Zwegardt and Sherry Weeks.

Incumbents are Mrs. Weeks, member-at-large, Mrs. Zwegardt, District 2, position 2, Mr. Knodel, District 3, position 3. Mary Beth Miller has filed for District 1, position 1, presently filled by Cliff Raile.

## St. Francis City Council, mayor

The St. Francis City Council has two seats up for election and those now filling the positions, Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks, have filed again. Others filing before the deadline on Monday were Bruce Roelfs and Bud Erskin. Mayor Scott Schultz is running uncontested.

## Bird City City Council

At the last minute, the fourth candidate filed for the Bird City City Council position. Those now serving are Ray Magnani, Frank Serrano and Loren White and they have filed for another term. Hal Sager has also filed for the Bird City City Council.

## No withdrawing name

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name now that filings have closed.



**REMODELING OF THE City Hall building started, Jason Howard works on the drywall.** Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

# REMODELING

Continued from Page 1  
the board room will have a display case from the VFW where flags will be displayed.

## Economic development

Councilman Roger Jensen reviewed some of the highlights of the Ogallala Commons which the city has recently joined. At a past council meeting, the council approved to pay the Commons dues of \$750. Bird City Century II joined along with St. Francis and paid the other half of the dues of \$750.

The Ogallala Commons is a non-profit development organization in the Ogallala Aquifer region. Eight states are involved in the organization and in northwest Kansas, the three-out-of-six counties showing interest in the organization were: Rawlins, Norton and Cheyenne.

The group will work together to prioritize the needs of each community. The organization strives to create futures for communities locked in cycles of decline due to depletion of natural resources.

Councilman Jensen said that in March, the executive director, Dr. Darryl Birkenfeld, Texas, will be addressing the group.

## Street light

Bev Crowe, B&E Hilltop Laundry, along with Rodney Neitzel, Hilltop General Store, requested that a street light be put up on Benton Street by the old Laundromat sign. The council asked that the neighbors be contacted first and, if they agree to the light, the council will talk to Superintendent Landenberger.

## Police report

Chief of Police Troy Gardner reported that Officer Dave Warren has turned in his resignation. He also noted that the police officers are not

able to pull residents out when they are stuck because of liability reasons.

## Other business

In other business:  
• City clerk Mary Lampe reported that the city had paid \$2,173 dues for the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development which is half for the year 2007. Cheyenne County pays the other half of the dues. The city's dues increased \$148 from 2006.

• The council approved to adopt the Code of Conduct in reference to the KanStep project.

• The council agreed to give a month of electricity to the fair board. See related article.

• Councilmen Rodney Bracelin was re-appointed to the Airport Authority Board.

• The council reviewed and approved the water emergency plan after the designated changes are made.

• They approved the Emergency Building Agreement of \$200 a month with the county. The building, located in St. Francis, houses both the county and city fire trucks.

• The council approved to pay 2007 Kansas Rural Water dues of \$650.

## Executive session

Chief Gardner requested 15 minutes in executive session to discuss personnel. There was no action taken.

Continued from Page 1A

"We have had more tire chain wear and wear on the snow plow skids," the supervisor said. "After the snow is gone, there will be problems crop up that were related to the extensive wear and tear on the equipment at this time."

"I am thankful that the commissioners agreed to buy two new graders because we have been using them."

He said that the snow is great but the wind which is constantly blowing the roads shut, is beginning to wear on the crew. However, they are continuing to do their job.

## State highway crew

Bill Lee, sub-area supervisor, reported that the state crew has been working almost five weeks straight.

"We are working 12-hour shifts with four on the day shift and three on the night shift, right around the clock," said Mr. Lee, who has also been running right along with his men.

"A lot of the public has been appreciative of snow removal," he said.

Kristin Brands with the Kansas Department of Transportation reported that from Dec. 29 through Jan. 2, the 511 phone number which gives road conditions broke records of people calling for information. On Dec. 31, there were 64,691 calls and throughout the period, there were 132,836 calls with 230 lines being used simultaneously.

## Clearing drives and private roads

Both the county and state crews have had requests to clear private roads and drives but policy does not

# WHEAT

Continued from Page 1  
abruptly shut down. This could have caused plant stress, and might have resulted in problems.

However, in reality, I don't think that is too much of a concern. Wheat is an incredibly resilient crop and can take quite a bit of stress before we see problems down the road.

According to some research in the upper midwest, wheat can withstand icy conditions for at least three weeks and snow cover for longer. In addition, the snow cover on the fields is a blessing. It is providing insulation and protection to the crowns of the wheat from the bitter cold temperatures, which could cause winterkill.

Finally, we will not know what is really going on under all of the snow until things start to melt. There is really no need to stress about the wheat. The benefits of the snow outweigh the concerns.

# MORE

allow them to do so. The commissioners, at the last meeting, re-enforced the policy that county crews cannot clear these areas but will give the phone numbers of those residents who have businesses and equipment for clearing these areas.

Mr. Lee said a few have complained about the state crews closing driveways as they clear the highways.

"We can't stop and open each driveway and the state has a policy that we can't clear private roads."

He said that the snow is heavy and if one of the state crew breaks off a mailbox, the state will replace it. If this happens, residents are asked to call the shop at 785-332-2931 and the post will be replaced with the mailbox fastened back on.

## St. Francis and Cheylin schools closed

St. Francis students have lost three days of school because of the snows. Cheylin has missed four days of school.

Carl Werner, St. Francis schools superintendent, said the school board has built in 10 snow days and doesn't expect to use them all. However, if all 10 days are used, the days can be made up several ways.

He said the days can be made up at the end of the year or on Saturdays but, since the St. Francis schools are set up to have 1,116 hours of classes, the school day can be lengthened to make up the missed time.

Some sporting events have been rescheduled but there are some junior high and junior varsity games that may not be made up simply because there is not a date to reschedule them.

## Accidents

Since the first of the year, the Cheyenne County Sheriff's officers have covered six accidents caused because of slick road conditions.

On Jan. 18, Alfred Hilt, St. Francis, was driving his 2003 Chevy pickup to work south of St. Francis and hit ice which caused him to go into the ditch at Roads G and 15. There were no injuries and only minor damage to the pickup.

On Jan. 12, 1.5 miles south of Bird City, Barbara Walden, Bird City, driving a 2004 pickup, slid on the ice and the pickup rolled, ending up on its top. There were three passengers but no one was injured. However, the pickup was totaled.

On Jan. 10, Dustin Krien, St. Francis, was driving his 2000 Chevy pickup to work south of St. Francis and lost control on ice at Roads J and 15. The pickup went into the ditch, flipped and landed on the driver's side. There were no injuries but there was major damage to the pickup.

On Jan. 7, Rhonda Zwegardt, St. Francis, was driving a 1998 Chevy

Blazer, when she lost control on the ice, slid into the ditch and landed on driver's side. The accident occurred north of St. Francis on Roads Q and 15. No injuries were reported and there was minor damage to vehicle.

On Jan. 6, Frank Hayes Jr., Goodland, lost control on ice and rolled the 1994 Ford Explorer he was driving. The accident happened about 4 miles south of St. Francis on Road 15. The five occupants in the vehicle suffered no injuries but there was major damage to the Explorer.

On Jan. 4, Otis Koon, Bird City, slid the 1998 Freightliner truck into the ditch at Road 33 and Highway 36. There were no injuries and minor damage to the truck.

## Bird seed

The Cheyenne County Wildlife members are buying corn from the Equity and Equity employees are making sure the barrels in front of the old Equity Hardware building are stocked. People are urged to come by and pick some corn up to feed the wildlife.

Bob Bixler, member, asks those feeding the birds to put the corn in places with cover and protection for the birds. So far, 3,000 pounds of grain has been purchased.

"Don't stop feeding the wild birds until the snow melts and the birds can start finding food on their own," Mr. Bixler said.

## Farmer's Almanac predictions

Some people are firm believers in The Farmer's Almanac. The Almanac's information on weather to the end of February looks like people better not put their shovels away!

The Farmer's Almanac predicted that on Jan. 20 through the 23rd, the weather would be "stormy, with blizzard-like conditions." The rest of the month is to have mixed sun and clouds with very cold winds, and ending with some more of the wet stuff.

The Almanac predicts that on Feb. 4-7, a powerful storm will push heavy snow across Colorado, parts of Nebraska, Iowa and much of Kansas and Missouri with accumulations of a foot possible. After that, the temperatures are supposed to be cold with a more stormy conditions between the 16th and 19th. and the 24th and 28th.

The first day of spring on March 21, is almost two months away and, in the past, many heavy snow storms have been reported. If this year's weather pattern continues, there could be snow on the ground well into spring.

However, after six years of drought, the snow has been welcome and will benefit the wheat and pastures.

# DAY

Continued from Page 1

tions center or child, teenage and women's experiences in the 19th and 20th centuries.



The program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit organization with 30 years of experience promoting the understanding of the history, traditions and ideas that shape lives and build community.

Anyone wanting to set up a display in the hall need to do so at 9 a.m. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. This will give people time to look over the displays and enjoy coffee and rolls made by the Cheylin school cafeteria staff.

A potluck lunch with music provided by the Swinging Seniors will begin at 11:30. The program will start at 12:30 p.m.

Cheylin fourth and fifth grade students will present a short program followed by the third grade class from St. Francis.

Ms. Holt will then present her program which will be followed by special music from the Kansas Girls and group singing.

There will be a short business meeting and special recognitions made. Rev. Mortia Truman, St. Francis Methodist Church pastor, will end the day with a memorial tribute and benediction.

This will be the 146th birthday for the state of Kansas. Everyone is urged join the celebration.

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