



Snow begins to melt

After weeks of temperatures hovering at the freezing mark or below, the sun came out and warmed the county to the high 40s on Tuesday. It still gets chilly at night but after the below zero temperatures, 15 to 25 degrees isn't too bad.

On Wednesday, the forecasters are predicting more snow and only a high of 28 degrees. However, get out the spring clothes because the high is supposed to reach 50 by Sunday.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Jan. 30	22	-3	
Jan. 31	28	-1	
Feb. 1	25	-9	
Feb. 2	22	-10	T
Feb. 3	24	04	T
Feb. 4	36	06	
Feb. 5	40	15	



SNOW NEVER SEEMS TO MELT on the north side of Washington Street so the city crew was out breaking it away from the curbs, scooping it up and hauling it away. Side streets are still ice with icy ruts but, with the warmer temps, they will soon be clear. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

New county tenant 911 maps are done

By Karen Krien

The appraiser office staff told the commissioners at their Thursday meeting that the new county 911 tenant maps with the emergency numbering were done and they had ordered 300.

Bonnie Zwegardt and Deb Smith, appraiser staff, said they had distributed 100 to emergency and law personnel but they

still had 200 which they would sell to help pay for the \$1,000 cost of printing.

The maps will be available in the clerk's office and the cost of the maps will be decided later.

The staff noted that, as people move, they will need to go to the appraiser's office and they will be given an address. That address will then need to be taken to the post office.

Troy Gardner, sheriff, said the \$200,000 grant for 911 upgrades should be available soon. He said he planned to move the equipment and dispatchers from the St. Francis city power plant to the former sheriff's office in the courthouse. (The sheriff's office was moved to the city office.)

When the 911 dispatch was first located in the power plant, it was because there were

employees working there 24-hour a day. However, as time passed, the 911 calls were increasing and it is not fair to have employees running \$1 million machines when someone's life is in danger.

Following training, Carol Gamblin will oversee the 911 dispatch office.

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Gardner had gotten a bid for a new

Ford pickup for the force. He said he would be trading off the 1999 Blazer and 2003 Explorer. The commissioners asked about getting a second bid even though there is no other dealer in the county. While they don't need to take the lowest bid, it would be good to compare. Mr. Gardner said that, going out of town would pose a problem for service.

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Demo derby rules same as last year

By Leslie McCormick

Committee reports were given when the Cheyenne County Fair Board met Thursday night.

The Demolition Derby Committee reported that the derby is on schedule and the rules will be the same as last year's. There will be the same judging crew as last year, however the head judge will be from Salina. The price for the grandstands will be \$10 and \$15 for a pit pass regardless of age.

The board discussed keeping the parking to one row deep around the

arena. When there are too many vehicles, it is hard to get the derby cars around. Vehicles will still be able to park outside of the cable.

Lawn mower races

Member Clay Zimelman brought rules for the lawn mowers which are the same as the National Lawn Mower Race Association. There were some minor changes to simplify the rules. This is the first year for the races. Once the committee knows how many mowers are coming and what the interest is, Mr.

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Winners honored at awards meeting

By Karen Krien

The 55th Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting and supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday in the American Legion Hall in Bird City.

Honored this year will be the Hendricks family: John, Sharon, David, Amy, Nathan and Chad, Bankers Conservation Award winner; and Melvin and Louise Schlepp, Windbreak Award winners. Others recognized at the meeting will be the student winners of the poster contests.

The meeting is held each year to honor the men and women of the county who nurture, tend and care for our most priceless resources —

the land and wildlife habitats.

During the business meeting, there will be a report of finances and activities from the supervisors of the county's conservation district. The terms of board member, Lynn Query, will be expiring and an election will be held.

The meal is free but people planning to attend are asked to contact the conservation office, 785-332-2183 by Friday.

Check the special Cheyenne County Conservation issue inserted in next week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. There are articles about the Bankers Award winners and conservation practices.

Best hands take home the flowers

Two people will have a happier Valentine's Day when they get a beautiful bouquet from Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, one of the 10 sponsors. And, just to add a little spice to the cold February days, the "Don't Gamble With Love" game is being played by people making a transaction in one of the 10 businesses and picking up a playing card.

The object is to collect the cards, then people are to pick their best natural poker hand and bring it into *The Saint Francis Herald* office, 310 W. Washington, by noon on Monday, Feb. 12.

If there are more than two people with winning hands, there will be a draw off with the highest number/suit being the winner.

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OVER 80 YEARS OLD, the Cheyenne County Courthouse is a well-kept, beautiful structure. All that is needed is new steps.

Former resident offers to write grant

By Karen Krien

A former St. Francis resident was at the commissioners' meeting on Wednesday to talk about writing a grant for the front courthouse steps. Before he left, the comment "this is a win-win deal" was heard several times and the commissioners were in favor of seeing what could be done.

Greg Kite, former resident of St. Francis now living in Wichita where he practices law, told the commissioners that the Cheyenne County Courthouse is unique and has been carefully maintained throughout the years.

"It is a beautiful show piece," he said. "The building appears much the same as when constructed in 1924. It has excellent integrity and over all appearance. The commissioners have done a fabulous job (of keeping it up) for years and years and years."

When Mr. Kite read about the replacing of the courthouse steps and then the trouble that followed when they were determined to not be up

to city code, he contacted Terry Miller, county clerk, about a grant which would replace them to their original state.

The president of the Sedgwick Historical Society, Mr. Kite said the competition is stiff, noting that last year, out of 65 applicants, only 17 were funded. However, because of the county's geographic location (far from Sedgwick County and other eastern historical sites), he felt there was a very good chance that the county could be eligible for a grant up to \$90,000 (the county paying only 20 percent of the actual cost).

"Fifty-percent of the grants awarded by the state are owned by county and local governments," he said. "Then they like to spread the money around."

The first application will be waived but the next application will need to be made by March 1, only a month away.

The grant recipients would be decided on May 12. If the county See GRANT on Page 7A

Courthouse has long history

The Cheyenne County Courthouse has been featured in the Kansas Preservation newsletter put out by the Kansas State Historical Society. It is a well-kept, beautiful structure which has a long history. However, there were two other county courthouses before this building was erected in 1924. The following information was taken from the Cheyenne County History Book and newsletter.

In July 1888, a petition to organize the city of St. Francis as a city of third class was rejected because it was not in legal form. Also, in July, the board entered into an agreement to purchase the courthouse building in Bird City

for \$2,827.

Feb. 26, 1889, brought the final election for the permanent location of the county seat and soon afterwards, plans were made to construct a courthouse in St. Francis. The building was 40-by 60-feet by 20-feet high. The contract was let to Kincaid Eaton for \$2,465.

By October 1889, the finishing touches were made and the courthouse was ready. This building stood where the band shell now stands in the park east of the courthouse.

The courthouse in Bird City was boarded up in January 1891. At a later date, it was used as the See HISTORY on Page 7A