



Steps still closed; bids due Feb. 29

By Karen Krien

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The county clerk told the commissioners that he had a conference call concerning the courthouse front steps project. He learned that the project will be re-bid with the bids to be opened at the Feb. 29 commissioners' meeting.

Greg Kite, former St. Francis resident and the person responsible for writing a grant to replace the steps to their original state, and Eric Johnson, contractor specializing in historical structures, had called Terry Miller, clerk, to give an update on when the steps would be replaced. The steps have been closed for over a year after the county's insurance

company deemed the steps to be unsafe.

Contractor Troy Porter and his crew had replaced the steps in 2006 but, at the Dec. 15, 2006, commissioners' meeting, J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city supervisor, said there was at least 3/8-inch difference in some of the steps and they could be considered a danger to those using the stairs. Later, the insurance company had ordered the steps closed.

In the meantime, Mr. Kite, who is also the president of the Sedgwick Historical Society, read about the replacement of the steps. He immediately contacted Mr. Miller asking the commissioners to consider replacing the steps

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Police report scam

On Wednesday morning, a citizen reported a telephone scam to the St. Francis Police Department. The individual was contacted by telephone and offered a free cell phone for trying T-Mobile.

Already being a T-Mobile subscriber and suspicious of the

offer, the individual called his T-Mobile provider and discovered that the offer was a scam.

"Always remember to check out any 'free' offers and don't ever give out any personal information over the phone," said Deborah Farland, St. Francis Chief of Police.



VOLUNTEERS WERE HARD AT WORK at the St. Francis Emergency Service building on Saturday. Kelly Frewen, fireman, is putting in an electrical outlet. The building must be finished by March 15 to comply with the grant.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Time is right for control

By Karen Krien

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Prairie dog control was once again on the agenda when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Thursday.

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog control supervisor, said the winter snow had left many of the roads in poor traveling condition, snow drifts were in the fields and the cold temperatures kept freezing up his marker. Andy Beikman, commissioner, was concerned that there is only six weeks left to treat the dogs. The board encouraged the supervisor to get as much treating done as possible.

They had received excessive complaints about prairie dogs living on lands belonging to Merle Mills, Ben Leibbrandt, Tom Herring and Gary Winter.

Mr. Schlittenhardt said that Mr. Mills had been working on the borders of his land to keep the dogs controlled. He also said Mr. Leibbrandt had purchased bait but the commissioners were wondering how much he had bought, noting that there were many prairie dogs to treat.

The commissioners said there are a lot of people concerned about the prairie dogs and, if there isn't some distinct results by the next meeting (unless there is a big snowstorm between now and

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Decatur County wants to use landfill to dispose of diseased deer carcasses

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners were asked about using the county landfill for dumping deer from Decatur County when they met on Thursday. After discussing the matter, they decided they needed more information before a

decision could be made.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said three deer with chronic wasting disease had been found in Decatur County. The Decatur County Commissioners had asked permission to dump not only the three diseased deer but those taken for testing. Cheyenne County has a permit to dump

animals where Decatur does not.

The commissioners wanted to have more information including fees and the number of deer they planned to bring to the landfill before making a decision.

In other business, Mr. Flemming said he had been asked why the county does not charge a fee to put a gas line under the road?

Colorado charges a fee.

The commissioners said that, while the extra money would be nice, there would be some people who would not want to pay the fee and would run the line under the road without the county knowing about it. They agreed that they would continue not charging for

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SHOVELING SNOW — Jessie Schield was trying to keep ahead of the snowfall Tuesday. Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, said 3.5 inches of wet snow fell by 8 a.m. and she had measured .16 moisture.



Take home flowers

With a purchase at one of nine businesses in St. Francis, the customer can draw a playing card. The more collected, the better chance of a winning poker hand.

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. 11.

The "Don't Gamble With Love" game will end at noon on Monday so everyone is encouraged to stop by one of the following businesses and pick up a card: Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Owens True Value, Hilltop Market, Krien Pharmacy, Schultz's, Donna's Gift Palace, L & L Liquor, Video Connection and *The Saint Francis Herald*.

There will be two winners who will take home a Valentine bouquet supplied by Goodell Greenhouse and Floral.

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

Check out the businesses and the specials they are offering for Valentine's Day. The special ad with information is located in of this issue.



CHECKING OUT THE HERALD — St. Francis girls, Sara Miller, left, and Katie Marin show travelers Sophie Ford and Calder Craig the paper when they stopped by St. Francis Super's Saturday afternoon.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Kids discover St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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Saturday afternoon, Katie Marin and Sara Miller were checking and sacking groceries at St. Francis Super's when two customers came through. They were young kids who started visiting with the girls and they soon found they had an interesting story.

Calder Craig is a Fort Hays State University freshman studying music, and Sophie Ford lives at Wilson where she is a senior in high school. They have been friends for years and, last year, they decided to bake a cake.

They had no recipe so they "dumped" ingredients they

thought would make a good cake including flour and sunflower seeds, then baked it.

"It actually turned out like a cake and tasted good," Calder said. "So we named the cake 'St. Francis.'"

Calder said he had just thought of the name not realizing that there was a town with the same name. In March, he was watching television and the newscaster said there was a tornado spotted near St. Francis.

"I called Sophie to tell her and we decided that, in February, we were going to visit St. Francis," he said.

In the meantime, they

researched the city on the internet and talked to Scott Schultz, mayor. They sent for and received information but, when they arrived, they were surprised to find such a nice town.

"The Main Street is pretty, there are so many things to do (for such a small community) and the people are so friendly," they both said, "everyone waves."

They said they were glad they had made the trip and were even thinking about attending the movie that evening.

Ultimately, one cake, with a name, had led them on an adventure they will remember for many years to come.

Women featured in special section

Each year, women in the county are featured in a special Working Woman section. The section is filled with stories, hints and recipes, depending on what there is room for. However, the highlights of the section are the ads with pictures of the women working in certain businesses.

There are many different types of "working women." Some are dealing with customers in the business place, others are stirring up food in a restaurant, while others are working in an office with numbers and computers.

The working women who are most often forgotten are those

holding down the home front or running after parts for their husband or driving a tractor or combine in the field.

"We don't want to overlook any working woman but what many don't understand is, the women featured in ads are paid for by the business," said Karen Krien, publisher. "We feature different workers in articles throughout the section but it is impossible to feature every working woman."

If anyone would like to buy an ad to feature their special working woman, contact Casey McCormick at *The Herald*, 332-3162, by Wednesday, Feb. 13.