

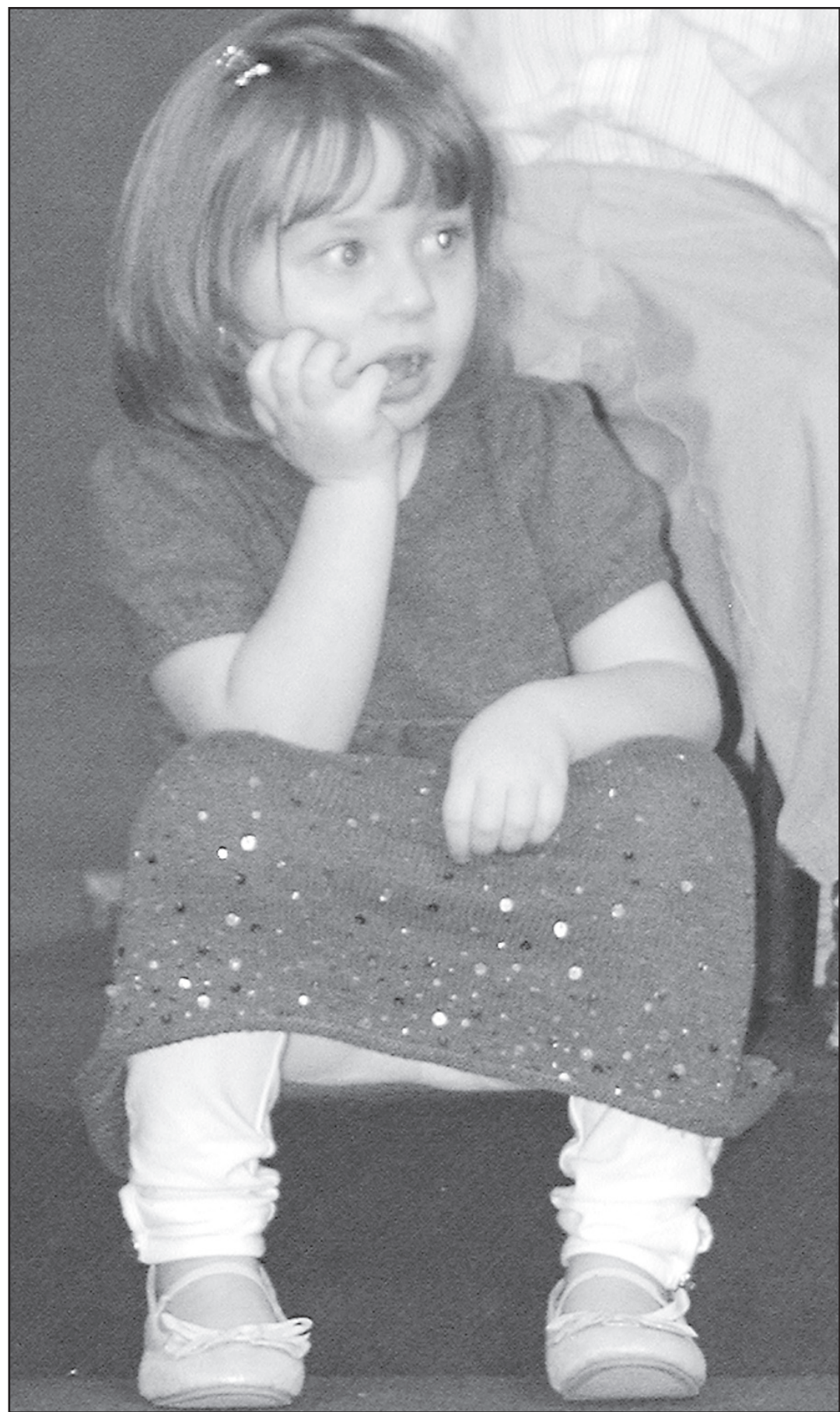
The Saint Francis Herald

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A LITTLE SHY about being in the program was Bree Nichol, one of the children performing at the ABC Preschool Christmas program held Thursday, Dec. 17. Bree is the daughter of Michelle Nichol.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

It's looking like a white Christmas

By Karen Krien
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As Bing Crosby is crooning the words "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" on the radio and television, many are wondering if they really want snow on Christmas, especially if they are traveling or people are planning to travel to their homes."

Most of the time, the chances for a white Christmas are less than 20 percent for northwest Kansas, but this year may be a different story.

Chances for a white Christmas are normally less than 15 to 18 percent for this area, but an advancing winter storm will raise that and cause potentially hazardous travel conditions though Christmas Day.

Brad Mickelson, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office, said Monday that a winter storm would arrive Tuesday night and the bulk of it would continue through Wednesday with winds picking up Wednesday afternoon and through Thursday night. The storm will wind down Christmas morning.

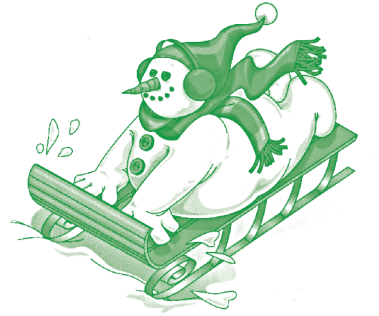
He said the expected snow accumulation in the area is six to eight inches with blowing snow and visibility dropping to quarter-mile or less with near blizzard conditions.

The storm is expected to cover the area from Wray to Flagler, Colo., and east of there into northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska. He said the winds are expected to be the worst in northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska and east as the storm moves across the state.

Christmas Day is expected to stay cold with highs in the 20s, and some winds, he said. Another small storm may add some snow during the day, and will move out by Friday evening.

Mr. Mickelson said once the storm moves out the winds should diminish and start to clear by Friday night with temperatures dropping to the 5 degree or lower range.

Saturday and Sunday will be cold he said, but the temperature will slowly start to warm up by Monday. He said temperatures will remain 5 to 10 degrees below normal, which for late December are



in the upper 30s and lower 40s. He said as the storm develops on Tuesday there is a chance for some freezing drizzle from Benkelman to Hill City to make travel hazardous.

The weather service defines a white Christmas as a day with at least one inch of snow on the ground in the morning.

For other holiday climatological data, Mr. Mickelson said people can visit: http://www.weather.gov/gld/?n=holiday_climate

Mr. Mickelson said the friends at the North American Aerospace Defense Command will track Santa's flight on Christmas Eve. He said people can visit <http://www.noradsanta.org/> to watch Saint Nick's journey around the world.

Rural resident thinks name misrepresented

A county resident attended the Monday, Dec. 15, Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting concerning an incident that happened the first of the year.

Craig Schoenrogge, Cheyenne County, attended the meeting and read from a prepared statement.

Mr. Schoenrogge referred to an incident that had occurred on his property around the first of the year (2009). The incident involved a Cheyenne County Sheriff's employee acting in his official capacity.

He had obtained a copy of an e-

mail where the sheriff's employee apparently made statements which Mr. Schoenrogge believed ultimately and unfairly portrayed him in a less than favorable light.

Mr. Schoenrogge would like to respond to the comments made in the e-mail, but he would like to do so jointly with Cheyenne County. He requested the commissioners hear or appoint someone to hear accounts of both parties and join him in a response.

He believed that his behavior was absolutely appropriate in the matter and thinks the record

should reflect so. No decisions were made regarding the letter.

Discussion of county road widths and right-of-ways took place with no decisions being made.

Ambulance department

Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, presented insurance write-offs in the amount of \$2,159.72. The write-offs were reviewed and signed.

Mrs. Bowers told the commissioners that the new four-wheel drive ambulance was used on a

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Grant process to restore city's band shell begins

By Karen Krien

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City council members and the mayor met at the band shell to discuss renovations with an architect and possibly qualify for a grant with the Kansas Historical Society.

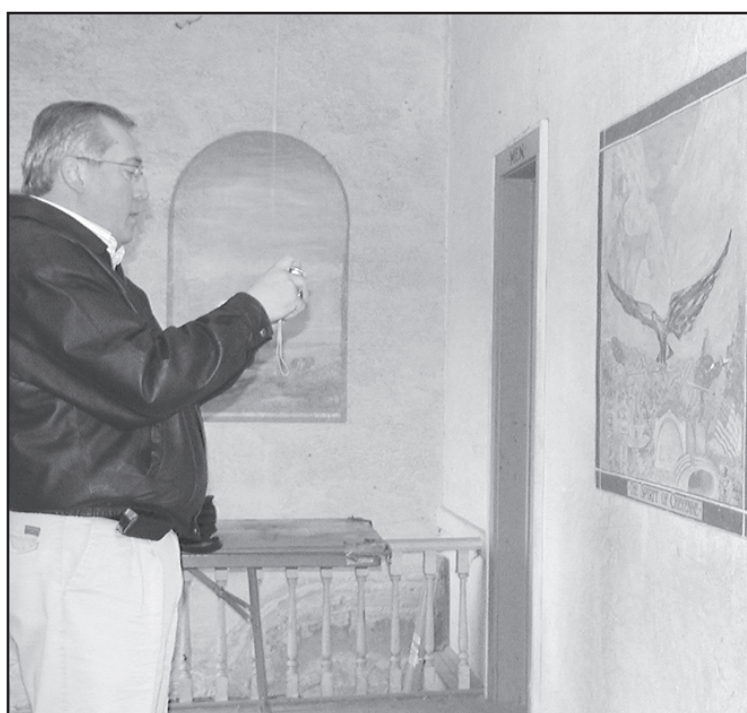
Paula Keller, Dale Weeks and Bruce Swihart, council members, and Scott Schultz, mayor, were present to tour the band shell with architect, Eric Johnson, Campbell and Johnson Engineering. Also present was Greg Kite, president of the History Preservation Alliance of Wichita and Sedgwick County. Mr. Kite was raised in St. Francis and has a strong interest in restoring the band shell.

There are only a couple of other similar band shells in the state. Built by Works Progress Administration programs (WPA) in the 1930s, most have been destroyed.

The St. Francis band shell, while the outside has been repaired and partially restored, the inside has considerable damage and little has been done to update it. In fact, the architect was surprised to find the old toilets with the tanks located higher on the wall.

There has been water damage on the inside including missing plaster on the walls and ceiling in places and the windows were covered years ago.

Howard T. Sawhill, who was instrumental in laying out the park and doing much of the work, had



'SPIRIT OF CHEYENNE' painting on the inside wall of the band shell is being photographed by engineer, Eric Johnson.

Painted murals on the walls inside the band shell. Two are in pretty good condition, another is not as good and the fourth is in poor condition.

The restoration would include getting a professional to touch up the paintings.

The mural, "The Spirit of Cheyenne," is signed by Mr. Sawhill in 1934. It depicts the park as it was when it was built which also gives those restoring the band shell a good picture of how it looked.

Mayor Schultz said he remembered the music notes painted on the front. The stage lights flipped up and there were lights in the ceiling of the band shell. All of those have been removed. Because the ceiling lights were covered, it caused some damage because they now collect water.

The meeting with the architect is just the beginning of the process. Mr. Kite, who was responsible for writing the grants for the courthouse steps, will write a grant for



FIRST OF MEETINGS — Greg Kite, front left, and Eric Johnson, met with city council members, (back) Dale Weeks, left, and Paula Keller, right, and Scott Schultz, mayor, Thursday morning to check out the work that will need to be done to restore the band shell in Sawhill Park, St. Francis.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

the restoration of the band shell. The architect will be in touch with the mayor and council, along with Mr. Kite in the near future.

Band shell history

By Virginia Sawhill Galloway

The 1933 and 1934 were not good years. Dust storms and crop failures shaped the lives in Cheyenne County, and the hard times showed in the spare absence of luxury or frills. Shaded green lawns and colorful gardens were much more rare than in later, more prosperous years. One who had not lived in St. Francis during

that time would not realize the oasis that the park created.

The city council was able to arrange for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to provide workmen and federal funds to help build a park on an empty lot on St. Francis Main Street.

The workmen soon caught the spirit of creating beauty here, and they worked with enthusiasm and dedication. My dad, Howard Sawhill, volunteered to plan and supervise, and with my mother, Vivian, at his side, he plotted out every archway-every detail. Dad

was a small man, but he handled every large stone personally, and worked alongside the men in every phase of the job. It was a labor of love.

Elm trees already grew in the block, and trees and shrubs of many varieties were added. Great quantities of flowers were planted, so that cheerful color was planned for early and late in each growing season. The huge tree left where is stood, inside the oval amphitheater, gave a canopy for shade for a good por-

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Merry Christmas

