

# The Saint Francis Herald

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## Heat bill higher than courthouse's

By Karen Krien

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Once again, the Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Feb. 16 meeting, were looking at the list of bills for the St. Francis Emergency Building. The January gas heating bill was \$1,111 which was only \$400 less than the entire courthouse gas bill. It was also noted that both the emergency preparedness director and the emergency medical service director, who have offices in the building, were gone during the last two weeks of December so little heating was used in those offices.

The county has fire trucks, ambulances and the two offices in the building. Last year, they agreed to pay for three-fourths of utilities because they use the building. The estimated costs (this was the first year since the building had been finished) found the county paying \$9,000 and the city of St. Francis

paying \$3,000 last year. When the year ended on Dec. 31, there was an ending balance of \$7,162. The commissioners thought this was more money accumulated than necessary so proposed that the county pay \$375 and the city of St. Francis pay \$125 per month.

However, the mayor had replied stating that even though there was \$7,162 in the account, the insurance and the building sign had not been paid and there was a concern that there were problems with the heat boiler. The commissioners did not think the insurance and boiler were considered part of the utilities agreement. The county insures their vehicles and the boiler was part of the city's building.

With the high cost of the January heat bill, the commissioners wondered if the city council's concern over the boiler problems was connected with the high heat bill?

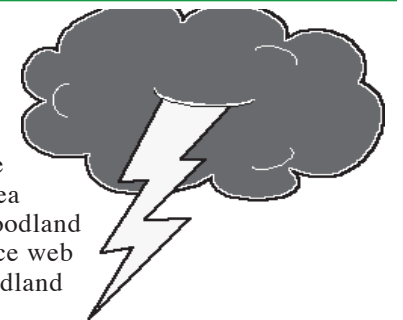
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INTENT ON THE COMPUTERS were Rylan Doyle, left, and Lukas Zwegardt. They are the first grade students of the computer teacher, Susan Dinkel.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Weather spotter training set for March 3



The National Weather Service in Goodland and Cheyenne County Emergency Management are holding the annual storm spotter and safety class in St. Francis. This year's training will be held Wednesday, March 3, at the high

school cafeteria, 100 S. College, at 6:30 p.m.

The class is free of charge and intended for all age groups interested in High Plains severe weather.

No weather background is re-

quired. This program is conducted only once a year by weather service meteorologists, so consider attending this fun and educational training in St. Francis. Classes will discuss thunderstorm formation, organization and evolution,

associated clouds and their meaning, thunderstorm hazards, safety, and what and how to report.

For more information, contact the Goodland National Weather Service at 785-899-7119. A complete listing of the 2010 Spot-

ter Training Schedule across the Tri-State Area is available on the Goodland National Weather Service web page: [weather.gov/goodland](http://weather.gov/goodland)



SNOW FELL WITHOUT WIND leaving a white covering on everything.

## More snow and cold temps

By Karen Krien

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It snowed again! And, it was cold again! And, the first day of spring is less than a month away.

The state highway crew had put a coating to melt the snow on Friday and were ready for the snow which started falling about midnight. It continued to snow throughout the day on Saturday and some on Sunday.

Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported a total of 3 inches of snow and only .26 inch of moisture.

Monday, the low was 7 degrees and it was cloudy with the sun breaking through occasionally but it was cold all day.

The forecast from the National Weather Service is predicting more snow on Thursday and Saturday along with patchy freezing fog

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Feb. 16	40	6	
Feb. 17	54	19	
Feb. 18	38	23	
Feb. 19	42	27	.02
Feb. 20	27	19	.12
Feb. 21	28	16	.12
Feb. 22	29	7	

There were 3 inches of snow.



MARLIN BURR had a lot of walks to shovel snow from Monday morning.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## Development coordinator looks at vertical farming

By Karen Krien

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At the Feb. 16 meeting, the co-coordinator of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation talked to the county commissioners about the progress made by the corporation in the past few months.

Chuck Kribs, co-coordinator, said he could see where progress is being made. We chase so many things, he said, and so few things happen.

He has been working with two new businesses, noting that the Small Business Development Center with Fort Hays State University had also been working with the businesses and has been a lot of help.

He talked about reading an article about "Aquaponics," or "vertical farming," a way of growing crops and fish together in a recirculating system. He felt that it might be

something that would work well for a Cheyenne County business.

First, he had visited a "farm." There, fish (perch and/or tilapia) are raised in a large tank. In a bed above the tank, vegetables were raised. Both are raised to sell.

The water is drained from the fish tank to a gravel bed. Here, beneficial bacteria breaks down the toxic ammonia in fish waste to nitrite and then to nitrogen. The filtered water is pumped to the growing beds where a variety of salad greens to tomatoes are grown. Finally, the water flows from the growing beds back into the tank of fish.

The next day, he and a St. Francis businessman visited the farm. He said there could be a great deal of improvements made to the equipment which could be a business in itself. Those interested in more

information on vertical farming should stop by the Development office on Washington St., St. Francis.

He and Diane, co-coordinator, had recently attended the International Sportsman's Expo in Denver where he had passed out numerous Cheyenne County brochures to potential visitors and promoters.

Mr. Kribs, who is a member of Outdoor Buddies, Inc., said a chapter will be established in Cheyenne County. The members of the organization help disabled individuals enjoy hunting and fishing experiences. Last year, over 800 people were able to hunt and/or fish.

Outdoor Buddies was founded by representatives of Craig Hospital and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Look for more information as it is available.



DR. MARY BETH MILLER had lots to say about what is being done in the Kansas Legislature. Right is Norman Morrow, St. Francis; on the other side of Dr. Miller is Lori Janicke, Bird City, and Roger Jensen, St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Builders review meeting

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Community Builders met early Tuesday morning to discuss the town hall meeting held in Bird City on Feb. 13. They also discussed what the group would be doing in the future to keep people informed on what was going on in the legislature.

The Builders have a number of

concerns but the main concern is the cuts being made in education, health care and long-term health care.

Present at the meeting were members of the Builders along with school superintendents, Bruce Bolin, Cheylin, and Rob Schiltz, St. Francis, Les Lacy, hospital administrator, and Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village

administrator. Lori Janicke, representing the Cheylin Board of Education, was there.

Those there commented that it was good to have both schools working together in a common concern.

"We need to keep our schools functioning and our communities alive," said Tom Keller, of the Builders.

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