



COLD WEATHER has been hard on livestock. These horses are wearing a snowy coat as they wait for their grain.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

More snow hits tri-state area

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

For the second week in a row, Tuesday was snowy, cold, windy and miserable. And, for the second week in a row, schools in Cheyenne County were closed on Tuesday.

Late Monday night, the wind blew with gusts 38 to 40 miles per hour. The snow started a little later but, by the time people were

going to work, the snow had piled up on vehicles and there were drifts.

The National Weather Service in Goodland predicted up to 6-inches of snow but it was hard to determine with the high wind. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning, reported over 3 inches of snow with .24-inch moisture. She noted that on Mon-

day, the high was 42 degrees but the temperature dropped to -1 degree by the next morning.

The National Weather Service reported a high of 3-degrees and a wind chill of -15 to -20.

By Wednesday, the sun was shining but it was still cold and the wind continued to blow with below-zero wind chills reported.

The outlook for the weekend will seem like summer as temper-

atures are forecasted to be in the 50s and lows in the middle 20s.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Feb. 1	02	-12	T
Feb. 2	12	-11	
Feb. 3	37	-06	
Feb. 4	49	18	
Feb. 5	51	27	.02
Feb. 6	35	11	
Feb. 7	42	-01	.24

As of 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning there was 3.7 inches of snow.

Hospital affected by Village loss

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

At the Jan. 27 meeting, the Cheyenne County Hospital Board members were told that, after the Oct. 19 fire at the Good Samaritan Village, the hospital will be losing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

After the fire, the residents were taken to other area nursing homes and were no longer brought to the county hospital. Thus, Les Lacy, hospital administrator said, the hospital will be losing approximately \$350,000 in revenue in the course of a year.

The Village provided meals on wheels so, after the fire, the hospital took on this task. Medicare reduces the hospital's reimbursement by \$15 a meal served to non-patients or non-employees. Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said supporting the meals on wheels program is a service to the community and that is what the hospital is about.

The nursing home is supposed to open up in March with 20-plus beds and by May, there will be 32 beds. That, he said, will be about 60 percent of what was there before the fire. This creates a situation that will reduce the hospital's revenue generating capacity and reimbursement over a longer term. The reduction in Medicare days will also negatively affect reim-

bursement. Mr. Lacy believes the cash loss to the hospital including revenue and reimbursement challenges would be around \$500,000 per year. "This creates some real challenges for the hospital," he said.

The administrator said hospital staff wages had been frozen starting the first of the year. But, he said, he recognized the need to maintain the current services if possible. We are still working the problem, he said, and we don't want to cause panic or fear but the hospital could run out of operating money in 20 months if cash utilization continues at the current rate.

"While it is important that we trim expenses," Mr. Lacy said, "we will continue to focus on patient safety and the quality of our care. We can fix this situation; we just need to be sure we are choosing the best thing for patients and community as we do it."

Mr. Lacy said in 1996, the taxpayers voted to give the hospital board 12 mills in appropriations. A mill generates \$35,780. This year, the board is getting 5.41 mills along with the 1-cent of the sales tax.

"It is likely that we will need the full 12 mills to recover," he said.

He went on to add that the coun-

See LOSS on Page 7

Red hearts raise money for senior living



Red hearts are being displayed in businesses and homes all over St. Francis.

At a recent foundation board meeting, Jo Frewen, member of the St. Francis Community Foundation, suggested that the loss of our nursing home residents and staff needed to be represented by a simple symbol in our community, like a "red heart." Her idea sparked the start of "Have a Heart for Senior Living" campaign.

"The response to the campaign for Senior Living in Cheyenne County has been phenomenal" she said. "Everyone we have contacted wants a red heart to display on their business or home."

We have received donations

from \$5 to \$25,000 to date," said Tom Keller, member of the foundation. "Our goal is to place a red heart on every business and home in Cheyenne County.

It is suggested that everyone get a red heart in memory of all the past residents and staff of the Good Samaritan Village for Valentine's Day.

"This will be a visible symbol of hope for a home for our community's senior members for the future," Mrs. Frewen said.

"This is as much an awareness campaign of the need for a long-term care facility in our county as it is a campaign for donations," Mr. Keller said. "Any donations are an added benefit."

Donations go into the Senior

Living for Cheyenne County Fund which is administered by the Cheyenne County Commissioner's Task Force for Long Term Care. Donations to date exceed \$40,000.

Red hearts can be obtained at Western State Bank, Bankwest, First National Bank and Frewen Insurance or any foundation board member: Jo Frewen, Tom Keller, Carla Lampe, Mike Day, Erika Zimelman, Bruce Swihart, Dara Carmichael, Carl Werner and Robert Grace. A minimum donation of at least \$5 is asked.



BONNIE CRAM was honored for her years of service to the Republican party on Jan. 28 and 29. She is being congratulated by Governor Sam Brownback. Ward Cassidy, representative of the 120 District, center, organized the award.

Sainty student wins bee

By Norma Martinez

normamartinez@wildblue.net

The Cheylin High School gym was buzzing with bees on Wednesday, Feb. 2 - not honey bees but spelling bees from Cheylin and St Francis schools. Thirty fourth through eighth grade students participated in the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee.

The judges, Kari Gilliland, St Francis, and Elaine Marcuson, Cheylin, lined the students up according to the number drawn. Janice Churchwell, Cheylin, served as reader and announcer.

Mrs. Churchwell explained the rules and called each contestant to the microphone where she gave them the word they were to spell. First by pronouncing the word, then using it in a sentence to assure the students were using the correct spelling, then pronouncing the word the second time. Each student was allowed ample time to think on the correct spelling.

After spelling it, Mrs. Churchwell told them if they were correct or incorrect. If incorrect she pointed out the error and then instructed the student to return to their seat, or go to the bleachers behind them.



SPELLING BEE WINNER was Jude Faulkender. He correctly spelled 'hexagonal.'

Herald photo by Norma Martinez

Several rounds later the spelling bee participants were down to five. All five of these contestants misspelled their words. Jude Faulkender and Austin Patton from St

Francis were recalled for the final round. Austin had won the spelling bee for the last two years.

Jude was the winner and champion. **See BEE on Page 7**

St. Francis woman honored

On Jan. 28 and 29, St. Francis resident, Bonnie Cram, was honored for her year's of service to the Republican party.

Jan. 29 marked the 150 birthday of the state of Kansas. Mrs. Cram, along with Connie Jenkins, Cheyenne County Republican Central Committee chairperson; and Paula Keller, secretary, attended the Kansas Day Celebrations in Topeka. Also attending were her daughter, Ione Slattery, Hays; son, Richard Cram, Topeka; and Kornelia Hensley, Lansing.

Ward Cassidy, representative of District 120, presented Mrs. Cram with a commendation for outstanding service to the Republican Party in both the state as well as Cheyenne County. The House of Representatives and the entire membership extended their congratulations of this memorable achievement and expressed hope for continued success.

In 1954, Mrs. Cram and her husband, Dick, returned to their **See HONORED on Page 7**



SENATOR PAT ROBERTS talks with Mrs. Cram following the awards ceremony. *Herald photos by Ione Slattery*