

6 inches of snow falls

By Karen Krien

The new year started just right in Cheyenne County with a wet, heavy snow storm which, for a change, had little wind with it. The snow fell in the early morning hours and throughout most of the day on Jan. 1 dumping up to 8.5 inches in Wheeler, 6 inches in St. Francis and 4 inches in Bird City.

Snowmen sprung up everywhere and kids were having a great time on their sleds.

The county must have been a pocket as the further east the storm went, less snow fell. The National Weather Service in Goodland reported McDonald having no snow, Goodland had 4 inches, Colby had 1.5 inch and Wray had 1.5 inches. Yuma County in Colorado had 6 inches and Benkelman had 5 inches.

City, county and state crews were out all day on Wednesday clearing the roads and were out again on Thursday.

The temperatures were predicted to be warm but with the snow cover, it was still cold and what snow melted during the day, quickly turned the streets into icy ruts by sundown.

Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, recorded 4.5 inches moisture

Cheyenne County along with most of northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska has been suffering extreme drought and the wet snow was welcomed. Casey Johnson, county ag agent, said that, while the crops and grasslands are now dormant, any moisture stored up for spring will help.

The weather is expected to be warm through the middle of the week but a cold front is moving down from Canada and temperatures are predicted to drop and there is a chance of snow by Friday and

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GIANT SNOWMAN — Addie Yost, front, and her sister Emme helped their parents, Jason and Stephanie Yost and Grandpa Dave build a big, big snowman following the storm on New Year's Day.
 Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart

Candidates need to file

By Karen Krien

The city and school elections will be held in April but those filing for office will need to have their names submitted at the county clerk's office by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Those filing will need to either pay a \$5 fee or submit a petition with the required amount of signatures. If the candidate is thinking of submitting a petition, he or she should check with the county clerk to find out the number of signatures needed as there are different numbers for each city and school board.

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing for such candidacy.

There are a number of positions open in both cities on both the school and city boards. In both cities, the council can have any number of candidates running but only the seats which are up for election will be

filled by the candidates with the most votes in the April 1 election.

To run for a seat on the city council, the candidate must live within the city limits.

School board elections have different rules and if there are more than three candidate running in a district, there will be a primary election on Feb. 25, eliminating the extra candidates.

There are also different districts in the school district and to run for a certain position, the candidate must live in that district. A map showing the districts can be obtained at the county clerk's office.

City council/mayor

St. Francis — There are two city council seats and the position of mayor which will be up for election.

Those members whose term are up are: Roger Jensen and Rick Kriegh, council members, and Scott Schultz, mayor. Councilman Kriegh

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Annual Chamber meeting features Secretary of State

The annual St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will feature Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Riverside Recreation. While this is a Chamber meeting, the public is welcome to attend.

Secretary of State Thornburgh was the speaker at the last annual meeting and was extremely interesting as well as entertaining. Tickets for the dinner and speaker will be sold at the door. See advertisement in this week issue for more information.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour with a dinner of cordon bleu following. There will be a short business meeting where the new board members will be elected and recognitions made. The speaker will then give his talk.

Board members whose terms are up or are wishing to be replaced are Shawna Blanka, Renee Braun and Ryan Shay. Anyone wishing to be a Chamber board member should contact these members or Roger Jensen.

Emergency medical training options and costs checked

Over the course of three meetings, the Cheyenne County Commissioners spent much time looking into the options and costs of emergency medical technician classes. At a meeting on Monday, Commissioner Tim Raile and Emergency Medical Service Director Larry Gabel met and Mr. Gabel

agreed to teach the class through Colby Community College. The class will cost the county nothing as the college will contract and pay Mr. Gabel.

Cheyenne County has been short of emergency medical technicians for some time, especially in the Bird City area. At the Dec.

31 commissioners' meeting, Mr. Gabel reported that there were 10 individuals from Bird City firmly committed to take the emergency medical technician class and two more from St. Francis.

Commissioner Raile pointed out that paying Beth Gabel \$18,000 to teach the 160- to

220-hour class was amounting to \$82 per hour and he along with the other commissioners felt this amount was high compared to other counties.

Craig Button, St. Francis, had submitted a proposal to teach the same class and the cost was about one-half, depending upon

the hours it took to teach 12 to 18 students. However, Mr. Button could not teach a class until June as he is currently completing the Kansas accreditation requirements.

At a special meeting on Jan. 2, Mr. Button met with the commissioners to discuss

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County commission deal with end-of-year business

At the Dec. 31 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, end of the year business including transferring and encumbering funds were among the items of business.

Resolutions signed included: 1) transferring funds from the Rural Fire budget to the Rural Fire Capital Outlay Fund; and 2) transferring funds from the Road and Bridge budget to the Special Machinery Fund. Funds encumbered from different departments included: 1) Landfill, \$7,900 to dig one more landfill pit; Bridge Building, \$10,000 for culvert replacement; treasurer's office, \$1,200 for new phones and installation; and county attorney, \$411 to purchase office equipment.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, was cautious because of the expected government funding

cutbacks so purposed to hold off on certain projects already planned. The River Road project will not be started at this time but the supervisor felt there was funding to complete the Olofson Bridge project north of St. Francis.

In other business

In other business: County attorney Kevin Berens had the license agreements concerning the taking of gravel with River Valley Ranch Trust 1 and 2, Gale Walz, which the commissioners reviewed. The commissioners agreed to accept the licenses.

The Emergency Medical Technician classes and instructors were discussed. See article above.

Emergency Medical Service director Larry Gabel and Janelle Bowers, bookkeeper, presented

\$3,134.99 in ambulance write-offs which were allowed. Mrs. Bowers was questioned about the number of hours she was working. She said she was working 40 to 48 hours each week, depending on the work load. The month of November had 17 ambulance runs to bill.

The appointment to the Western Plains Resource Conservation and Development Committee was discussed. If no one is found, Eric Fiala, who is the present representative, has agreed to serve, however, he felt that, at this time, he did not have the time needed to properly represent the organization.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Monday in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Dog finds drugs

By Karen Krien

Several months ago, the county sheriff's department purchased a drug dog and the undersheriff and dog went for training which they received and were certified. Undersheriff Cliff Flock and the drug dog have continued training but the first real test came New Year's Eve when Officer Flock stopped a 1987 Honda going 74 miles per hour and driving erratically west of St. Francis on U.S. 36.

Officer Flock discovered that the driver, Martin G. Lara, 37, of Lochbuie, Colo., didn't have a driver's license, however, his passenger, Veronica Apodoca, 43, also of Lochbuie, said she had a license but didn't have it on her. Officer Flock called in the information Apodoca had given him and found that she did have a license. Because of the erratic driving and a difference in information given him by the two people in the vehicle, he released Bronson, the drug dog, who circled the car and made "hits." He was given permission to search the inside of the vehicle and that was when Bronson found a variety of drugs including cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana along with drug paraphernalia which had a street value of over \$2,000.

Both Lara and Apodoca said



OFFICER CLIFF FLOCK and drug dog check out a car following the drug bust on New Year's Eve.
 Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

they were unaware of the drugs which were found behind the driver's seat in a duffel bag. Officer Flock, on the

other hand, said the odor of drugs was strong inside the vehicle.

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St. Francis receives grant

St. Francis is one of 19 Kansas communities to receive a water and sewer grant through the Community Development Block Grant program. The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing reported that the 19 Kansas counties will share a total of \$6,517,433 in federally funded water and sewer grants.

With these grant awards, the Community Development Block Grant program will assist 16,030 Kansas residents, 9,708 of whom have low and moderate incomes.

St. Francis will receive \$400,000 to expand its current lagoon system and replace major portions of its sewer collection system. The Kan-

sas Department of Health and Environment will contribute \$400,000.

Other recipients of water and sewer grants, and the amounts of their grants, are as follows:

City of West Mineral, sewer, \$360,350; city of Gas, water, \$265,996; Harper County, water, \$400,000; Maize, water, \$270,000; Cedar Vale, water, \$400,000; Osage City, water, \$400,000; Soldier, water, \$240,000; Arma, sewer, \$400,000; Erie, water, \$382,500; Hiawatha, sewer, \$400,000; Macksville, water, \$400,000; Montgomery County, sewer, \$400,000; Tipton, water, \$213,500; Toronto, water, \$400,000; Stark, sewer,

\$186,000; Pomona, water, \$400,000; Strong City, water, \$400,000; Frontenac, water, \$199,087.

Contingent funding

The Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing has also funded four "contingent" Community Development Block Grants totaling \$1,375,000 during this funding round. The grants are contingent upon each city or county fulfilling certain obligations in order to qualify for the funds in January 2004. The contingent grants are as follows: Burlingame, water, \$400,000; Atlanta, water,

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