The Saint Francis Herald ′5¢

10 Pages

Thursday, February 6, 2003

119th Year, Number 6

DIGGING OUT — Roger Neitzel, ran the snow blower and Dan Laffond scooped snow at the Lampe apartments.

PILES OF SNOW — Bob Ochsner was busy moving snow away from the pumps at the service station Monday morning. It didn't take long to get a big pile but by afternoon, the sun was out and there was a little melting. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Area gets snow with .54 moisture

The ground hog saw his shadow on Feb. 2 and that means six more weeks of winter. As of Monday, it looked like it might be a very cold six weeks if the temperatures that day were any indication.

The weather was exceptionally warm on Friday with the temperature reaching 80 degrees. The spring-like days last week were welcome. People took time to work in the yards and wash their cars and turn to blowing snow about 10 Sunday evening.

The weathermen had forecast 3 to 5 inches of snow and the wind to blow anywhere from 25 to 35 miles per hour. Richard Grace, at Grace Flying Service, St. Francis, said gusts were measured at 35 to 40 miles per hour during Sunday night cold. Highs are predicted to be in and early Monday morning.

windows only to see the weather inches of snow with .54-inch pre- its to low teens.

cipitation. The wind continued to blow Monday morning but by mid snow began to melt. However, the what they were on Sunday. temperatures never went above 32 degrees.

The Decision Weather forecast for the rest of the work week is the 20s and low 30s, warming to Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis the 50s over the weekend. The weather observer, reported 3 lows should be in the single dig-

Decision Weather also stated that it may be toward the end of the month afternoon, the sun came out and the before the temperatures warms to

Date	High	Low	Prec	Snow
Jan. 28	43	18		
Jan. 29	63	24		
Jan. 30	64	24		
Jan. 31	80	35		
Feb. 1	47	27		
Feb. 2	38	23	.54	3"
Feb. 3	32	10		

County consolidated law enforcement held up

By Karen Krien

At the Jan. 30 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, county attorney Kevin Berens reported on several different matters including presenting the commissioners with an updated employee handbook and research he had done on consolidated county law enforcement.

members including county attorney, chair tive. (It would need to be a seven member get in the sheriff's department at the end of

City as it is the smaller community in the has been tabled. county

Attorney Berens said he will contact the Kansas Attorney General regarding Con- overtime and the employee handbook states hours worked which will be submitted with solidated Law Enforcement Boards and that overtime will not be paid unless it is the hours. The commissioners said they home rule, which would allow the county considered an emergency or if the depart-At the present time, a board for consoli- commissioners to change the law to add the ment head approves the overtime, it can be departments and they will make the final dated law enforcement would require five mayor of Bird City and another representa- paid. Since there is generally a lack of bud- decision.

does not guarantee representation from Bird received. Until more is known, the matter

Sheriff department

Dankenbring and challenge the overtime.... "was the overtime earned in an emergency The undersheriff had turned in 34 hours situation?" and ask him to keep a log of want to see all overtime claims in any of the

Prairie dog legislation

causes concern in county

county and two elected members. This law be some time before any kind of answer is missioners. Commissioner Tim Raile said get policy. The policy prohibits each departthat he would talk to Sheriff Eddie mentin which funding comes from the General Budget from overspending on a line item. A department cannot overspend a line item unless permission is granted from the commissioners. The commissioners also stated when a department's budget gets critically low before the end of the year, they will be reviewing all spending. Attorney Berens had said earlier that if a department **Budget policy** is over budget, the commissioners can See HELD UP on Page 2 Attorney Berens presented a county bud-

Village approved to build housing

Paul Rainbolt, administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village, received final approval for the construction of a new four-plex on the Village campus.

"This project has been on the books for several years," said Administrator Rainbolt. "We are excited about the opportunity it brings to the Village to continue to provided independent living apartments for our area residents."

These apartments will be single bedroom, bath/shower, kitchenette with dishwasher, range and microwave oven. The apartment will also have a washer and dryer and independent heating and air conditioning.

The facility will be built directly east of the present activity room in the area of the fenced yard. Off-street parking will be provided on the south entrance to the apartments with two car spaces for each apartment.

"As our area residents age, we feel there is a continuing need for independent living as testified by the eight to 10 requests that are on the waiting list," Administrator Rainbolt said.

Penn Building Services will be the general contractor on this project with most of the materials coming from local businesses.

"We expect to get started as soon as conditions allow for the cement to be poured," the administrator concluded.

Corporation buys land in Campus for ethanol plant

Western Plains Energy, L.L.C. of sulted in many new subscribers, Quinter recently announced that including a substantial group of it is exercising its option on the South Dakota residents," said Jeff property where they intend to Torluemke, chief executive ofconstruct a 30-million gallon ficer of Western Plains Energy. ethanol plant. The plant site is lo- The \$41.1 million project recated in Campus, which is 5 miles quires a minimum of \$15.7 mileast of Oakley.

The Western Plains Energy Board is also pleased to announce that it has received subscriptions for over \$10 million in its initial public offering. A second round of investor meetings was recently completed in several locations in the offering's minimum of \$15.7 Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota.

"We were very pleased with

The board of managers of our recent meetings, which relion in equity financing.

At a recent board meeting, the Western Plains Energy Board extended the offering period of its initial public offering drive until March 1

"We expect that we will reach million in the next few weeks, close the offering, and, if these See ETHANOL on Page 2

Commissioners' meeting, Dan Schlittenhardt, county noxious weed department supervisor, reported on new legislation concerning prairie dog eradication which is being considered this session. The hearing was held Jan. 29 but, as of Tuesday, no further information was known.

At the Jan. 30 Cheyenne County

House Bill 2027 which deals with the management of prairie dogs has a number of proposed changes but for the most part, it appeared to have only minor changes including allowing the county commissioners to authorize the purchase of materials and hire a person to control the prairie dogs. However, in the next section of the bill it states, "Prairie dogs are a species of management concern requiring both control and protection."

Prairie dogs are close to being classified as an "endangered species." But they are a pest to farmers in northwest Kansas who are finding them taking over the pastures and eating the sparse grass which has managed to grow despite the drought leaving the land bare and subject to erosion. Neighboring landowners don't want them on their land either but, according to Supervisor Schlittenhardt, prairie dogs are looking for better pastures and branching out, even moving into stubble fields.

Senator Stan Clark in a statement made Monday said, "Why in the world would all the major statewide farming, livestock and county government organizations want to manage prairie dogs instead of eradicate them?"

He said that he didn't understand why would they testify in support of a document whose goal is to have within 10 years, 20,000 more acres of prairie dogs in western Kansas.

"Why in a time of great national concern about bio-terrorism would

House Bill scares people and senator

Late Tuesday afternoon, Elton tained in the bill. Keller, Cheyenne County farmer and rancher, alerted the Herald staff to the fact that there were some information in House Bill 2027 which could place state Aberle, farmer from Washington farmers and ranchers in the same situation that Wyoming farmers and ranchers are in and that is loosing all control when it comes to getting rid of prairie dogs.

ported that only he and Paula Fred Flax). Keller, St. Francis, had opposed the bill which is now being debated.

Senator Clark was distressed that a number of impressive organizations were supporting the bill and wondered if members really knew what was con-

we seek to protect a rodent that is a carrier of fleas that can and has carried bubonic plague?" he asked.

The legislation would allow those people wanting to keep prairie dogs to do so as long as they are contained on their land. There is also talk of establishing certain areas for prairie dogs to satisfy environmental groups who are concerned about eradicating them to where they will no longer be around.

Why do we believe pressure groups (environmental groups) and government officials when they say 'trust us' when the record shows countless examples that they are not trustworthy? Why would anyone in their right mind want the government calculate into the equation its view of

Those proponents were: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (Mike Hayden); Audubon of Kansas (Ron Klataske); Stephen County; Kansas Livestock Association (Mike Beam); Kansas Farm Bureau (Steve Swaffer); Kansas Association of Counties (Judy Moler); Kansas Legislative Senator Stan Clark, Oakley, re- Policy Group. (John Pinegar for

> The senator is concerned that if this bill passes there could be an additional 20,000 acres of prairie dogs towns in Kansas.

> Contact Senator Moran and Representative John Faber to voice your concern.

"aesthetics" in creating a management plan for the land and habitat the prairie dogs are going to live on? Don't people know that they are just trying to turn our pastures into parks!"

Prairie dogs moving into neighboring pastures are not wanted. Neighbors who find the unwanted prairie dogs turning up in their pastures can complain and the landowner with the prairie dogs will be contacted and urged to get rid of them.

With the proposed law, if the prairie dogs move into the neighbor's pasture, he can go to the county commissioners who will provide a written notice to the landowner with the prairie dog population to provide management. If control measures are See BILL on Page 2

53rd conservation meeting set Feb. 13

County Conservation District meet-American Legion hall.

Following the free meal, there will Award. be two Kansas Bankers' Awards given as well as the announcement of the winners of the coloring and drawing contests.

honor the men and women of the sixth grade students will be a little county who nurture, tend and care for more difficult as each student will be our most priceless resources... the asked to draw a picture about recyland and wildlife habitat.

Those honored by the Kansas

The 53rd annual Cheyenne bankers this year are: Grace Zweygardt who will receive the ing and supper will be held at 6:30 Windbreak Award; and George and p.m. on Feb. 13 at the Bird City Deb Ballinger, who will receive the Kansas Bankers' Soil Conservation

A coloring contest has been held in grades kindergarten through second. These children will be judges on their ability to color a certain picture. How-The meeting is held each year to ever, the contest in the third through cling and/or anti-littering.

See MEETING on Page 2

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Bulletin Board

AARP

AARP will be meeting at the senior citizen center at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 10. Please note change of date and time. **Board of Education**

The St. Francis Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb.

County Historical Society

The Cheyenne County Historical Society will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Cheyenne County Museum.

Theater Board

The Theater Board will meet at 5 p.m. Feb. 10 at the theater.

Taxaide

People Helping People Income Tax Assistance volunteers will assist you in preparing and filing your tax return. They will be at the St. Francis Public Library from 2 to 5 on Wednesdays and at the St. Francis Senior Citizens Center from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. For appointments call Annette Erskin at 332-2304; Rowland Roelfs at 332-3490 or Wayne Keeker at 332-3428.

Chamber of Commerce

The St. Francis Chamber of Commerce will meet at noon Friday at the Dairy King.

Workshop set at Jennings Heritage Associates of Jennings will hold its second meeting, "Establishing the Best Practices at the Czech Memorial Museum" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Royal Neighbor building.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact Lila Jennings at 678-2299 or Neoma Tacha 678-2470 by Feb. 12 and March 12.

This program is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a SRS office at (785) 332-2021.



Alzheimer's Support Group

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the St. Francis Public Library.

Fair Board

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will met at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 in the commissioner's room in the courthouse.

Hospice Service

Hospice Services Inc., has information available about end-of-life care, advance care planning, and other related topics. Hospice Service, Inc. is available to provide programs for groups and organizations. For more information, please call 800-315-5122

Alcoholics Anonymous/Al-Anon date change

Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon open meeting, held at 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Methodist Educational Building, upstairs. Contact 332-2168 or 332-2078.

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-a-week services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or if you are in need of assistance, please call the tollfree number 1-800-794-4624.

Need a Helping Hand The Cheyenne County Helping Hands Coalition can help. Call the

HELD UP

Continued from Page 1 refuse to approve a voucher if they

deem it unnecessary.

Road and bridge department Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, presented his monthly budget reports and road work plans for the coming year. He reported that he had purchased a snow plow for \$8,000 and was still looking at scrap-

The supervisor had been approached by the Good Samaritan Village Administrator concerning the use of the county's tractor to clear the road after a snow storm such as the one which occurred in January.

The tractor which would be used belongs to the county but is used by the Graces who run the county airport. There was discussion about liability and, in the end, the commissioners decided to allow the Graces to clear the road with the tractor, which, would also open the road to the airase there is a need for the ambulance

Supervisor Schlittenhardt was asked to see what kind of weed killer would work the best on joint grass. Also find out how much it cost and

when it was best to apply it.

In other business In other business:

• The commissioners approved signing the secretary of state signature sheet; paying the Western Plains Resource, Conservation and Development dues of \$250; signed a contract with ThyssenKrupp Elevator for the elevator inspection; okayed Mary Morrow to attend a register of deeds meeting, Terry Miller, clerk, to attend a Health Information Portability and Accountability Act class and Dolores Jenik to attend a treasurer's school.

• Richard Stephens of S & S Services, had contacted the county about abating his company's 2000 taxes. The county attorney recommended against this action and the county ap-



HEADSTART SCHOOL held a Pet Contest to raise money before Christmas. Winner was Dana VanAllen and her dog Riley. The contest raised no money but there were a few good people like Tim Poling, Darrel Johnson, Shirley Straub and Christi Miller who donated to the contest to help pay the bills. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

For the Record

Real Estate

Karen A. Nicks, et al to Tim E. Poling, et ux, all of lots 1 and 2 in block 26 in St. Francis.

Dorothy Finley, et al to Carol Redding, et al, a part of lots 5 and 6 in block 37 in St. Francis.

Lanny DeGood to Earl Crowe, et ux, the S90' of lots 7 and 8 in block 39 in St. Francis.

US Bank National Association to William Peter, et ux, lots 13, 14 and 15 in block 1 in St. Francis.

F. Ryan McAtee to Bankwest of Kansas the SW1/4 of Sec. 21, the W1/2 of Sec. 27. all of Sec. 28. the N1/2 and the E1/2SE1/4 of Sec. 33 and the W1/2 of Sec. 34 all in Township 1S-40W; and the NE1/4NW1/ 4 of Sec. 3-2S-40W all in Cheyenne County

Arrilla M. Zimbelman, et al to Marvin L. Zimbelman, et ux, lots 8, 9 and 10 in block 7 in St. Francis.

Jennifer Rueb Harper, Trustee of the Lucy Piehler Trust to Steven Frederick, et al, about 5 1/2 acres off the North end of lot 2 and about the S20 and 20.66 acres of lot 1 in Sec. 20-3S-42W in Cheyenne County.

Klepper, lot 13 and the W1/2 of lot 14 in block 47 in Bird City.

Ronelle D. Kotter, et ux, to Randall praiser will be asked to attend the next Rueb, et ux, the part of lot 2 in Sec. 17 Ill., was cited for speeding 45 in a port. This is especially important in meeting so more information can be that lies south of Colo. Rd. 15; and the 60 mile-per-hour zone. He pled no N51/2 acres of lot 1 in Sec. 20: all in Township 3S-42W in Cheyenne and fined \$40 plus \$43.50 court County. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kansas Regional Juvenile Center in America, as Trustee of the Clayton C. and Lila A. Nietfeld Charitable Trust to Harvey A. Black, the SW1/4 of Sec. 22-3S-38W in Cheyenne County.

enne County.

Richard P. Brubaker, et al, and Darlene L. Brubaker, et ux, to Gary S. Brubaker, et ux, each an undivided 1/2 interest in lots 8,9 and 10 in block 55 in Bird City.

St. Francis Police

On Jan. 22, a 1982 Dodge pickup driven by Bennie Weber, St. Francis, was struck by a 1997 Dodge Neon driven by Holly Hunt, St. Francis.

tion was stolen from her car while it was parked on North Quincy. Investigation is ongoing.

On Jan. 31, a 1990 Mazda pickup belonging and driven by Glen Raile, St. Francis, backed out of a parking space in front of the Cheyenne County Hospital into a legally parked car, a 1999 Chevy Malibu, belonging to Suzzane Todd, St. Francis, Damage is estimated to be under \$500. **Municipal Court**

Jan. 18: Brody Lucero, Trenton, Neb., was cited for failing to stop at James Shuman to Rodney K. astop sign. On Jan. 24, he was found guilty and fined \$40 plus \$43.50 court costs.

Dec. 22: Joe Porter, Champaign, contest on Jan. 27, was found guilty costs.

Music festival scheduled Feb. 10

students will be presenting a recital of music festival selections at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10 at the high school auditorium.

The will be attending the Northwest Kansas Junior HIgh Music Festival at Colby Community College on Feb. 19. This is your opportunity to hear the numbers they will be performing.

There will be no admission charged for the recital and the public is welcome to attend.

Students who will be participating include:

Seventh graders: Cassie Dankenbring, Kattie Ford, Keaton Fiala.

The St. Francis junior high music Frewen, David Guthmiller, Jenice Hartman, Chance Hobrock, Katelyn Jones, Holly Keller, Dara Loyd, Katie Marin, Sara Miller, Corbin Sherlock, Justin Sherlock, Gavin Smull, Jasmine Torrence, RL Walz, John Weems and Lauren Zweygardt.

> Eighth graders: Andrea Blair, Mindy Cooper, Danielle Flemming, Mac Frewen, Janae Glidewll, Shaina Gohl, Darren Laffond, Zach Mills, Megan Rice, Addie Swihart, Miranda Teeters, Andy Waite, Alecia Zimbelman and Janelle Zweygardt.

They are directed by Debbie

Thursday: breakfast: sausage and

gravy, biscuits, orange juice, milk;

mashed potatoes, gravy, hot rolls,

applesauce, peanut butter finger, milk

or cold cereal, buttered toast, jelly,

grape juice, milk; lunch: sausage or

pepperoni pizza, seasoned peas,

tossed salad with dressing, pudding,

Monday/Friday: junior/senior high

Friday: breakfast: hot Malt-o-Meal

pears, cookie, milk

School Menu

milk

salad bar

Feb. 10-14

Monday: breakfast: bagel, cream cheese, jelly, cereal assortment, orangejuice, milk; lunch: burritos or hot lunch: chicken fried beef patty, dog, bun or roll, tossed salad with dressing, peaches, milk

Tuesday: breakfast: French toast stix, syrup, cereal assortment, grape juice, milk; lunch: chicken noodle casserole, peas, hot rolls, relish sticks, strawberries and bananas, milk

Wednesday: breakfast: scrambled eggs, buttered toast, jelly, apple juice, milk; lunch: taco sticks, cheese sauce, lettuce and tomato, hot sauce, corn,

Water meeting set

Northwest Kansas Groundwater and approval of the 27th annual meet-Management District will be conducted Feb. 19 in Colby at the City Limits Convention Center. Tradi- cussion session for any issues the pubtional business to be conducted includes:

Rawlins/Decatur, Sherman/Wallace, Groundwater Management District 4 Thomas and Sheridan counties; ap- office at 1175 S. Range, Colby, teleproval of the 2002 audit; approval of phone 9785) 462-3915.

The 28th annual meeting of the a proposed 2004 operating budget; ing minutes.

> Also on the agenda is an open dislic wants to discuss.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For Election of four board positions - more information, please contact the

ETHANOL

Continued from Page 1

occur, anticipate beginning plant construction as early as April of this year," Torluemke said.

Western Plains Energy board members continue to hold meetings and contact interested investors. The board continues to accept subscriptions at its office in Quinter.

It is anticipated that the planned ethanol plant will utilize approximately 10.7 million bushels of corn or milo annually, produce approximately 30 million gallons of ethanol annually, and produce over



96,000 tons of distiller's grains for use as a premium cattle feed in western Kansas feedlots. Western Plains Energy has engaged ICM, Inc. of Colwich, to build the plant and anticipates that construction will take approximately 13-15 months after the offering is complete.

Investments will only be accepted in accordance with the terms of a written prospectus that is distributed at the meetings or requested from Western Plains Energy's office. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing. All investments involve risk.

To request a prospectus or for more information, contact the office in Quinter at (785) 754-2119.

Estimated damage was over \$500. On Jan. 23, a South Scott resident reported that her wallet containing credit cards and personal identifica-

23; all in Township 2S-38W in Chey-

crew to meet the medical plane.

Noxious weed department

The commissioners signed the annual Noxious Weed Eradication Department report and talked about new prairie dog legislation.

Supervisor Dan Schlittenhardt asked to attend several meetings and was granted permission.

Commissioner Raile reported that he had heard complaints of gophers eating wiring at the fairgrounds and asked the supervisor to treat the gophers as well as spraying for "goat head" weeds.

The commissioners also discussed trying to get rid of joint grass which is growing in the ditches and on the county's right-of-ways. Commissioner Raile felt that if joint grass is treated aggressively, it would encourage grass to grow. Commissioner Ron Krien thought that with the drought conditions, without joint grass, there would be more erosion.

P.O. Box 1059; St. Francis

785-332-3162

 Attorney Berens recommended that the commissioners not sign the agreement with Greater Western WaKeeney. Instead, they should contract with Finney County for services. The county clerk will get the contract

for the next meeting. • J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis City Superintendent, asked if the city could use 911 funds for city street signs. The cost for the signs would be around \$4,207.60 and the city crew would probably make the signs and use the county sign maker. There was 6-5S-37W in Cheyenne County. sufficient money in the 911 Fund and,

if the county attorney approved that it was legal to spend the funds this way, the commissioners agreed.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Feb. 14 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Dennis A. Page, et al to Terry D. Glasco, et ux, a tract of land in the NE1/4NW1/4 of Sec. 36-3S-38W in Chevenne County.

David Howard Downing, III, etux, R. Joe Kramer, et ux, the N1/2 of Sec.

Ron L. Jones, et ux, to James Bryan Vancura, et ux, the S1/2SE1/4 and the NW1/4SE1/4 of Sec. 14; SE1/4 of Sec. 22; N1/2 and the SW1/4 of Sec. ing from the basketball article.

Dec. 22: Gilbert Allen, Hiawatha, was cited for speeding 45 in a 60 mile-per-hour zone. He was found guilty, fined \$40 plus \$43.50 court cost.

Jan. 5: Lacie McArthur, St. Francis, was cited for speeding 45 in a 60 mile-per-hour zone. She received a diversion and was fined \$40 plus \$43.50 court costs and 10 hours community service.

Correction

Cale Rieger was named to the Oberlin Invitational basketball tournament All-Academic Team. His name was inadvertently miss-

Continued from Page 1

Jeanne Dunn, Cheyenne County Conservation District secretary/manager, said the winners of the contest will be submitted to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment calendar contest and for each pictures printed on the calendar, the student will receive a \$50 savings bond.

A business meeting will be held along with the election of officers.

Check the special Conservation insert in next week's St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times. Also take special notice of those advertisers who make the insert possible.

BILL

Continued from Page 1

deemed necessary, the county will prepare a plan and consult with the secretary of Wildlife and Parks or the county will undertake the prairie dog management and control measures on the landowner's property and the landowner will reimburse the county for the costs.

As of Tuesday, the House Bill was still being debated.



