

Bill on roads is being introduced

By Karen Krien
 At the Friday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, reported on House Bill 2135 which has been introduced to the Kansas House.
 The bill deals with roads and highways and concerns mostly county roads. There have been some amendments to the bill

including the change which, if passed, will no longer allow county road crews to clear the personal drives of rural residents.
 The bill states that the commissioners or township boards shall not rent or hire county or township machinery for any private purpose.
 There are many residents in the west-

ern half of Kansas who live in the country but do not have tractors or other equipment to clear the drive to a county road and there are not people and equipment for hire who can clear the drives.
 In the eastern half of the state, the temperatures are warmer and there are contractors and others who have the equipment for hire who will remove snow.

Supervisor Flemming said that the way the bill will read, if passed, it will forbid county crews to remove snow from any drive, even in there is a medical alert.
 "It (the bill) is kind of going backwards," the supervisor said.
 Supervisor Flemming has been contacted to possibly testify against the changes of the bill and maybe get a peti-

tion going but, as of Monday, he was waiting for Senator Stan Clark to do more research on the bill.
 The bill is not supposed to come up in the House before the middle of March so there is still time but Supervisor Flemming and others in this area think it is important that the changes in this bill do not take place as proposed.

Commissioners talk about prairie dogs

By Karen Krien
 The county's noxious weed supervisor discussed prairie dogs when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday.
 Supervisor Dan Schlittenhardt and others had heard rumors that people are bringing prairie dogs into Kansas and dropping them off. However, other than some prairie dogs moving into places where they have never been before, there is no evidence, no one coming forth, saying they saw the act or even having a vehicle license number.
 Supervisor Schlittenhardt said that it was against the law to transport prairie dogs without a license.
 The supervisor said that House Bill 2027 dealing with eradication of prairie dogs and giving more authority to local commissioners, had passed through the Kansas House and moved on to the Senate. He said that the amended bill gives more authority to the local boards and had taken out the Wildlife and Parks Department.
 At a prior meeting, the commis-

sioners had asked the supervisor what was the best way to control joint grass and he reported that it was Roundup which should be applied before the grass starts greening up.
Signing
 Gary Rogers, emergency manager, Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, and J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city manager, further discussed the equipment and materials for making road and street signs.
 The law states that signs in an area where the speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less need to be no smaller than 4 inches high but, where the speed limit is higher and there are more than 400 people traveling that road, the street sign will need to be 6-inches high.
 When the county roads were signed, the limit was for the 4-inch high signs and they do not have equipment for the 6-inches signs. Several options were discussed but prices were not definite. Manager Rogers will look into prices and
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HE'S PAID FOR — Eddie Lauer, St. Francis, wrote out a check for \$1,200 which finished paying for Bronson, the county's drug dog. "I think he is worth the money," Mr. Lauer said. The dog has already assisted in keeping drugs from coming into the county in an arrest made New Year's Eve. Cliff Flock, undersheriff, reported money is still need to maintain the dog but Mr. Lauer sure helped out the department and the county with his generous gift.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Books close the 17th

Terry Miller, election officer, announced that people can register to vote during regular business hours at the offices of the county clerk at the courthouse; the city clerk's office at 113 W. Washington, both in St. Francis; and, in Bird City, at the First National Bank on Bird Avenue.
 However, the registration books will close at the end of the day on March 17 and remain closed through the day of the general election on April 2.
 When a voter has registered, his or her registration will be valid until the voter changes their name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings or changed the place where they are living.
 Those who will need to register are citizens 18 years of age and upwards or will have attained the age of 18 at the next election or those who have changed their name or place of residence. The person can register by applying to the election officer in person or by mail. Application forms shall be provided by the election officer upon request.
 Those not registering before March 17 may register after the election as the books will once again open on April 2.

— Weather —

Date	High	Low	Prec.	Snow
Feb. 22	54	20		
Feb. 23	31	12	.39	6"
Feb. 24	18	-6	T	
Feb. 25	10	-4		
Feb. 26	20	4		
Feb. 27	32	5		
Feb. 28	36	17		
Feb. 28	36	17		
March 1	35	19		
March 2	43	18		
March 3	42	21		
March 4	56	13		

Legislators visit Bird City Saturday

Senator Stan Clark and Representative John Faber, along with Senator Karin Brownlee, Olathe, will be in Bird City on Saturday from 7 to 8 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Center on Bressler Street.
 The information presented will be from many of the issues being considered and discussion will be held on anticipated issues and

their impact on everyone.
 On Saturday, the legislators will travel to Herndon and will be at the Downhome Cafe from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. following their visit at Bird City, then at Oberlin, 10:15 to 11:15 at the Gateway Room; Almena from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center.



KANSAS STATE PHEASANT CHAMPIONSHIP were held over the weekend at Ring-neck Country, located south of St. Francis. This unknown hunter looked happy as he, his teammate and dog finished the hunt. The hunt was limited to 100 teams with 40 teams hunting Sunday in some mighty cold temperatures.
Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Siren for tornado safety drill will sound Tuesday

It is still cold in northwest Kansas but spring and summer are just around the corner and the possibilities of tornadoes and severe weather increases. The first tornado in 2002 occurred on April 11 in Reno County and the last tornado sighted in the year was Dec. 18 in Cherokee County.
 In order to be more aware and more prepared for a tornado and severe weather, the National Weather Service and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management have designated next week, March 10 through 14, as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Kansas.
 A statewide tornado safety drill will be conducted during the day on Tuesday. A second evening drill is planned in parts of the state on the same date but the evening date is not planned in Cheyenne County.
 "Should the weather be threatening on Tuesday, the drill will be postponed until Thursday," said Gary Rogers, the county's emergency manager.
 All across Kansas, each county's emergency management agency will participate in the tornado safety drill to prepare for the severe weather season. Schools, hospitals, industries, public facilities and citizens are encouraged to test their readiness should a tornado or severe weather event actually occur.
What to look for
 Local outdoor warning sirens, NOAA Weather Radio alarms, and the Emergency Alert System will be activated to signal the start of the drill.

Spotter training set for April 15 in Sainty

The schedule for spotter training has been set in the tri-state area. A spotter training class is held each year and helps train new spotters as well as giving experienced spotters a refresher course.
 Emergency manager, Gary Rogers, organizes the class and says the class is open to the public.
 "The class is set for individual education on severe weather," the manager said. "If people can't depend on the radio and television for up-to-date weather forecasts, they need to educate themselves."
 He said that weather spotters are always needed.
 "The more spotters — the bet-

ter, especially rural spotters! If we have trained spotters in designated areas, there will be less spotters we will need to send out and sometimes, it can be dangerous."
 Anyone interested in becoming a severe weather spotter or those interested in knowing more about what signs of danger to look for during storms should plan to attend the spotter training class in Cheyenne County at 7 p.m. on April 15 in the St. Francis Community High School cafeteria. There are also other trainings planned in the area. For more information, contact Manager Rogers at 785-332-2560.

Actions should then be taken as if it were a real emergency. The drill will test everyone's readiness for a life-threatening severe weather event, such as a tornado. Other severe weather threats that must also be prepared for include: flash flooding, large hail, lightning and damaging winds.
 The year 2002 saw another very active tornado season with a total of 95 tornadoes in Kansas, 44 above normal. The 61 twisters in the month

of May set a new monthly record, while two late season tornadoes hit in mid-December. Severe Weather Awareness Week comes just before the traditional peak tornado months of April, May and June.
 "However, when the atmospheric conditions are right, tornadoes can occur at any time of the year," Manager Rogers said.
 Last year, 90 percent of the tornadoes occurred during the peak months.

PRAIRIE DOGS

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what is needed and report at another meeting.

Overtime

The commissioners discussed overtime charged by Cliff Flock, undersheriff. There had been 15 hours in January and at the last meeting, Tim Raile, commissioner, said he had done a spot check on the overtime claimed and found all claims to be reasonable. However, commissioner Ron Krien was not satisfied with that and felt that both the sheriff and undersheriff need to come to the next meeting.

Commissioner Raile said the sheriff had pointed out that overtime was a way of allowing the undersheriff to earn more money and would better compare with the salaries received by the St. Francis Police Department. Commissioner Raile didn't approve and wanted to make sure that Rawlins County was not also being charged; noted that batteries for radios for the fire department should come out of 911 funds — not the fire department funds.

The clerk will notify the sheriff and undersheriff to be at the next meeting.

Video on disaster response

Manager Rogers had asked that elected officials attend the Friday meeting to watch a video to help first responders and elected officials better understand and know their responsibilities if there is a disaster.

Local Environmental Protection Group

Mike Balthazor, Chad Zimmerman and Kenneth Knorr, representing Local Environmental Protection Group, informed the commissioners that state funding for their group was being cut and, right now, there is enough money to cover expenses. However, within the next year, there will be a shortage unless grants are received. They asked that the commissioners fill out a questionnaire and also asked for any suggestions. Commissioner Jane Brubaker thought there should be a fee based on population and Commissioner Ron Krien suggested that it might be possible for them to do testing for landfill wells.

Road and bridge department

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about tractors for summer mowing and how they should be financed — no decision was made. He also talked about planned work for county roads; that the three illegal landfills had been cleaned up; and about House Bill 2135 which may forbid the renting

of county equipment and cleaning personal drives during emergency situations.

In other business

In other business:
 • Treasurer Dolores Jenik asked the commissioners what they wanted to do about uncollectible personal property taxes. She reported that now, if taxes are not paid, the person wanting to purchase or renew a license will not be allowed the license until the taxes are taken care of.
 • As the commissioners reviewed the list of bills and vouchers, they commented on the cost of prisoner care, wondering if there was going to be sufficient funding; questioned that Colby Community College was billing the county for Cheyenne County as well as Rawlins County emergency medical technician students and wanted to make sure that Rawlins County was not also being charged;

noted that batteries for radios for the fire department should come out of 911 funds — not the fire department funds.
 • The commissioners approved to share costs with the city(s) for responder training for the firemen in the county but since the St. Francis Fire Chief had requested the share, they wanted to make sure that Bird City Firemen were also included. They will make the final decision at the March 14 meeting.
 • The commissioners agreed to the ambulance write offs of \$7,691.08.
 • Signed the resolution to encourage cities to recycle, agreeing that the county will pay up to \$1,000 to cities during the 2003 calendar year.
 • Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development Coordinator, and Roger Jensen, St. Francis City Councilman, went over the bi-laws of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization. They noted that they would like to be the two local directors in the organization and also asked that the commissioners write a letter of approval for the organization's bi-laws which they okayed.
 • Attorney Berens was asked about foreclosing on S & S Productions concerning back taxes. He said that there would be expenses but Commissioner Brubaker pointed out that someone had tried to buy the gas wells for \$150,000 but the owner wanted more. Attorney Berens will look into the matter and report findings at the next meeting. The wells have been up for auction and if the wells sell, there is a chance

that the county could claim some of the back taxes.

• The commissioners agreed two to one to sign a letter of support for having a residential county magistrate judge.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting has been moved from March 15 to March 14. They will begin at 8 a.m. in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. This and all commissioners' meetings are open to the public.

Legislative hot line info

The Legislative Reference Section of the Kansas State Library began operation of the Legislative Hotline on Jan. 13. The hotline provides all Kansans with toll-free access to Kansas Legislative activity and documents. The hotline number is 1-800-432-3924. The same number is also available for hearing impaired TTY calls. The Legislative Reference Section will also assist in contacting legislators who will then return constituent calls.

The Legislative Reference Section will assist with questions concerning general and specific information on the Kansas Legislature including bill introduction, sponsorship, amendments, status, history and information related to other legislative action and issues. The Legislative Reference Section will also provide copies of bills, calendars, journals, committee agendas and other legislative documents. Bills and other legislative documents are also available in Braille for the visually impaired.

The Legislative Reference Section maintains a complete collection of current and historical legislative documents including bills, interim reports, journals, calendars, session laws, statutes, as well as other documents that can be useful in legislative research. The section also maintains a permanent index to Kansas legislation including all bills, amendments and conference reports.

The Legislative Reference Section also maintains an extensive current and historical collection of Kansas newspaper clippings on state government, politics and public policy issues.

Roll call voting records on individual legislators are also available.

Good luck little seedlings, you are on your own!!!

Say it isn't so. Many Kansans purchased tree and shrub seedlings through Kansas Forest Service's Conservation Tree Planting program this year. Let's say that you were one of those people and did everything right when it came to planting the seedlings: site prep was completed, plants were properly taken care of when you received them, and then they were planted so carefully that even your own children felt neglected next to the affection that these seedlings were shown.

Now What? After this much time and affection, are you going to wave to them "good-bye and good luck" as your drive out of the field, hoping that they can hold their own against the harshness of this cruel world? Certainly not! You are going to do what every good planter would do, and that is aftercare. You may be thinking, "My gosh, does it ever stop? I gave them every bit of care I could muster." Well, it does end eventually, but not quite yet.

Once the planting is complete, the seedlings still need a little bit of help to make it to the point where they become the dominant species.

The first thing that comes to mind is weed control. If you installed weed barrier fabric correctly at the time of planting, then disregard the following, but if weed barrier was not installed, weed control becomes a must. The roots of perennial grasses, and to an extent, annual grasses, can make short work of a conservation tree and shrub planting by robbing the seedlings of water, nutrients, and even sunlight. Grass's roots are very fibrous and can be very deep. They quickly obtain moisture from the soil and make it difficult for seedlings, which have a rather small root system at first, to obtain the moisture they need to survive. Nutrients are robbed quickly as well.

Not only do grasses and unwanted species rob seedlings of what they need below ground, they can also take what plants need above ground. Once a seedling is overtopped by an undesirable plant, the seedling then risks being shaded out. At best, the seedling will be suppressed throughout the growing season. So what can be done?

There are basically three controls for unwanted vegetation. The first is manual removal. This is the toughest and least desirable way from the viewpoint of who is doing the work, but on small plantings, it may be the

only option. Physically remove the weeds from the sight by hand pulling or chopping with a hoe, shovel, or some other device. Although this will require multiple attempts, it is the cheapest. The precision will be greatest while keeping the margin of error to a minimum.

The second option is to mechanically remove the weeds. By simply mowing on a routine schedule, seedlings will be released from competing vegetation; however, the chances for error are greatly enhanced. If the operator can't see where they are, or worse yet, aren't supposed to mow, entire rows of seedlings will be removed. Often times this solution only suppresses the weeds between rows of seedlings, but not in between the rows themselves because spacing often only allows the area to be mowed in one direction.

The third option is to chemically remove the weeds. This option is the most expensive, has the largest chance for error, and can effect not only your planting site but your neighbors' as well, so extreme caution must be taken. But if done correctly, it is the most effective single control in terms of time and labor. Contact your local extension agent for advice on which chemicals to use, or contact Kansas Forest Service at 1-888-740-8733.

The best option is to use all three options together as needed. Using a pre-emergent herbicide early in the spring, followed by routine mowing and hand removal of weeds throughout the growing season is ideal. If you can't keep up with hand removing weeds, a post-emergent herbicide can be carefully applied, but extreme caution must be used because trees are susceptible to the chemicals as well.



By using all three options together, you minimize the use of any one of the three options alone. This maximizes your time and money, and makes maintenance that less troublesome to do because you keep on top of things.

Weed control is typically only needed for about two years after planting. Also, do not bother applying fertilizers to newly established plantings. Unless a soil sample indicates otherwise, most soils contain enough nutrients to sustain seedlings. Excess fertilizers will burn seedling roots and end up feeding the weeds over the seedling. This just makes weed control more difficult than it already is. Remember, the end is in sight in terms of allowing the seedlings to "hold their own"; but you're not quite there yet. Hang in there, continue to watch over your plants for two more growing seasons, and your planting will have a much better chance of being something to be proud of.

- What America Represents -

The seventh graders of Marti Schlittenhart were asked to write about "What best symbolizes what America stands for" and Mrs. Schlittenhart felt that the Herald readers would enjoy what these young students had to say. Keep in mind that the students had only five minutes to write their ideas down. The students' work will be appearing in different sections so be sure and look for them.

What Best Symbolizes What America Stands For

Arlington Cemetery - I think it is one of the many things that represents America. I think it is because it shows how many people have died at the expense of freedom.

Vietnam Wall - Another thing that I think represents us well is "The Wall" in Washington D.C. We went into war because we were defending defenseless people, and at that same time trying to prevent the spread of Communism. Although we pulled out we did not lose or win.

Chance Hobrock

INDIAN WRESTLERS ~ Job Well Done!



Dylan Loyd - 112 lbs. ★ 2nd place ★



Derek Ross - 160 lbs. ★ 3rd place ★



Trevor Richard - 103 lbs. ★ 5th place ★



Back row: Steve Jenkins - Assis. Coach, Kevin Brown, Travis Hilt, Gabe Walz, Dallas Walz, Derek Ross, Trey Hilt, Kyle Buffington, Grant Keller, Troy Torrence, Tal Earl, Larry Gabel - Coach; middle row: Daryl Loyd - Assist. Coach, Devin Rohweder, Troy Zweygardt, Matt Brown, Trevor Richard, Josh Walters, Seth Swihart, Gabe Gienger, Dylan Loyd, Gabe Smull; front row: Brooke Lucas, Ale Tygart, Katora Sherlock, Kali Rueb, Emily Walz and Hailey Frewen. Photo courtesy of Chet Gardner

Thanks for a great season

All Pro Auto Parts
 Randy & Denise Andrist
 Bandel Home Center
 Bankwest-Of Kansas
 Bartlett Grain Co. L.P.
 Becky's Bierocks
 Bier's Hometown Store
 Brice's Auto Repair
 Bud & Eunice Burnham
 Burr Retail Liquor
 Craig & Nadja Button
 Captain Hook's Fine Dining
 Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael
 Cheyenne Bowl/Dairy King
 Cheyenne Co. Clinic/Hospital
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 Crabtree Well Service
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 Larry & Beth Gabel
 Goff Agency -
 Gary Leach, Agent
 Good Samaritan Village
 Goodell Greenhouse
 & Floral
 Lezlie Hilt
 Homesteader Motel
 & Trailer Park
 Jaqua Abstract Co.
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 Perry & Paula Keller
 One More Year Ranch -
 Pete & Alice Kinen
 Knodel Funeral Home
 Don & Twila Kramer
 Krien Masonry Service
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Lampe Hardware
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 Neitzel Insurance Service
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 Pizza Hut
 Tim & Robyn Raile
 Ranch Food Direct
 Republican Valley Vet Clinic
 Bud & Marla Rice
 Tim & Teri Richard
 Ross Manufacturing
 Terry & Dr. Mary Beth Miller
 Marlin & Anabelle Rueb
 Randy & Rikki Rueb
 Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring
 St. Francis Equity
 St. Francis Herald
 St. Francis Sand & Redi Mix
 St. Francis Tire & Service

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 Schultz's
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 Silver Crest Farms
 Sublette Truck Sales, Inc.
 Stuart's Jewelry
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 T.R. Services Inc. -
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